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Sources of Assistance for Agriculture

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Revised 1991



Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Farm Business
Management Branch

Sources
of
Assistance

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Introduction

This publication is intended to be a comprehensive reference guide on the financial and non-financial government assistance programs available to both primary producers and the food processing and marketing sectors.

We would like to thank the individuals and agencies that provided information for this publication.

The programs and services described in this publication have been grouped under the government department or agency that administers them. The program index at the back of the publication should be consulted to locate specific programs or services.

The information contained in this publication is also available on the Compu-Farm Remote Bulletin Board System (RBBS). For further information on accessing this information via the RBBS please contact the farm business management branch in Olds.

Every effort has been made to ensure that information on each program is correct as of May 31, 1991. For more detailed or current information, contact the department or agency administering the program.

Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC)

As the Government of Alberta's agent responsible for agricultural financial services, ADC's mission is to foster a sustainable, profitable agri-food sector in Alberta by ensuring the availability and advancing the productive use of the financial services necessary to meet evolving needs.

To bridge the essential financial services gap between the agri-food and financial sectors, ADC's board of directors advances and implements policies which:

- assist family-owned farm businesses to develop as profitable, self supporting enterprises
- promote value-added processing, the farm service sector and other diversification opportunities; and
- improve the long term health of the Alberta agricultural financial services sector.

Agri-Business Loan Program

Program Description

The Agri-business Loan Program is designed to assist in the establishment and maintenance of businesses which service, supply or support agriculture by providing financial services at a reasonable cost when they are not available from private lenders.

Eligibility

Available to an applicant who:

- manufactures, markets or packages products used by farmers
- provides services and supplies to, or supports farm producers
- can demonstrate adequate repayment ability
- has appropriate experience and management ability
- contributes sufficient equity to the business
- is not able to obtain alternative financing at reasonable terms and conditions

Assistance

Loans may be used by new or expanding businesses who require financing for:

- purchasing land and buildings
- purchasing machinery or equipment
- working capital
- purchasing shares
- business acquisition or merger
- financial restructuring
- other purposes.

Seed cleaning co-operatives will be eligible to borrow up to 50 per cent of the capital costs of building a new plant. ADC will not provide inventory financing for farm machinery dealers.

Loan amounts will be established according to the loan's purpose and the business's ability to repay. Larger projects or loans for working capital will initially be considered for guarantee financing.

Loans may be amortized over periods up to fifteen years. Principal plus interest or stepped repayment terms may also be available. A loan may be paid out at any time without notice, bonus or penalty. Direct loans are written on a five year renewable term basis.

Contact

ADC commercial account manager in Camrose (679-1364), Calgary (297-6281) or Edmonton (427-2450), or your nearest ADC loans officer.

Agri-Food Processing Loan Program

Program Description

The Agri-Food Processing Loan Program is designed to stabilize and encourage the growth of agri-food processors in Alberta by providing financial services to processors who are developing products and markets which diversify the agricultural economy or who are creating markets for Alberta agri-food products.

Eligibility

Available to an applicant who:

- adds value to agricultural commodities (e.g. processing, manufacturing, marketing, packaging)
- has income mostly from wholesale rather than retail sales
- has the appropriate experience and management ability and can demonstrate adequate repayment ability
- is not able to obtain alternative financing at reasonable terms and conditions.

Assistance

Loan funds are available for new or expanding businesses who require financing for:

- purchasing land and buildings
- purchasing machinery or equipment
- working capital
- purchasing shares
- business acquisition or merger
- financial consolidation
- other purposes.

Loan amounts will be established according to the loan purposes and the business's ability to repay. Applicants are expected to contribute adequate equity.

Loans may be amortized over periods up to fifteen years. A loan may be paid out at any time without notice, bonus or penalty. Direct loans are written on a five year renewable term basis.

ADC commercial account manager in Camrose (679-1364), Calgary (297-6281) or Edmonton (427-2450), or your nearest ADC loans officer.

Direct Farm Loan Program

Under this program, the Corporation determines whether or not the loan will be made, and provides loan funds directly to the borrower.

Beginning Farmer Program

Program Description

The Beginning Farmer Program is designed to assist qualifying individuals to develop viable farm production units. The primary objectives are to help young beginning and developing farmers, with basic production and financial management skills, to develop their expertise and knowledge, and to support their entrepreneurial spirit while establishing such units.

Consideration can be given to providing financing to individuals not having an owned land base during the initial development stages of the farm operation.

Eligibility

Loans are available to applicants who:

- live in Alberta and have lived here for a continuous period of at least one year during the three years immediately preceding the date of application
- have not previously operated a viable farm with an owned land base
- have not previously received a beginning farmer loan, or have remaining eligibility under the Staged Option
- can demonstrate that full-time farming, as defined by ADC, will become their occupation during the development period of the farm
- can demonstrate basic production and financial management skills adequate for the proposed loan
- have an investment to a minimum level of 20 per cent of the proforma assets. The equity must be in the form of cash or net worth in productive assets.

Assistance

Loans are available for:

- purchasing land
- making permanent improvements
- purchasing mobile homes
- purchasing breeding stock
- purchasing milk quota
- purchasing equipment or machinery
- first-year startup costs
- financial restructuring
- refinancing operating capital only when repayment from other sources of financing is not possible.

Applicants may choose to gradually develop the farm unit. The loan may be drawn down over a period of 10 years. Each loan must meet the lending criteria in effect at the time of application.

Intent to establish a viable farm unit must be demonstrated, including a development plan showing how this will be achieved.

The minimum loan amount is \$10,000. The total of the loan per qualifying individual may not exceed the lesser of \$200,000 or the amount required to complete the development of a viable farm unit. For business units consisting of three

or more individuals farming together the amount may not exceed \$600,000. For companies or partnerships, this amount will not exceed \$600,000 based on \$200,000 per active farm family.

The combined total of direct loans from ADC and the Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program may not exceed \$250,000 per farm family or \$750,000 per company or partnership.

Interest rates are fixed for the life of the loan. The rate at which they are fixed is reviewed semi-annually. Contact nearest ADC loan officer for current rates.

Borrowers who meet certain qualifications are eligible to receive incentives during the first five years of the loan. The incentive is calculated on the basis of 3/9 of the interest due, and is credited to the account on loan payment dates.

A production plan must accompany every application and applicants will be required to supply information as requested by ADC.

Loans may be amortized for periods of up to 20 years.

A loan may be paid out at any time without notice, bonus or penalty.

Contact

Your nearest ADC loan officer for more information and to apply for a loan.

Disaster Assistance Loan Program

Program Description

The intent of the Disaster Assistance Loan program is to assist primary producers who have suffered an agricultural disaster, in maintaining or regaining reasonable viability.

An agricultural disaster is defined as, "an occurrence to a farm operation that is beyond the control of management and that jeopardizes the viability of the farming operation."

Eligibility

Funds are available to:

- repair or replace buildings or other permanent improvements
- replace livestock
- consolidate debts resulting from the financial loss associated with an agricultural disaster

- provide interim financing until compensation for losses associated with an agricultural disaster are received from an insurance company, or a third party that may be legally responsible for a portion of the loss. A condition of the loan requires that any compensation received will be used to repay the loan.
- assist in situations considered by ADC to be directly related to an agricultural disaster.

As a rule, the program does not cover:

- losses due to market collapse
- losses which can be covered by crop insurance
- crop losses due to weather conditions
- financial distress resulting from the breakup of a partnership or marital union
- losses for which farmers customarily purchase insurance.

Assistance

Assistance offered through guaranteed loans will not be limited to any amount. Direct loans may be made to a maximum of \$200,000. Loans already outstanding to ADC will not affect the loan limit.

Funding under this program will be over the length of time necessary to regain or maintain reasonable viability, not necessarily to the maximum period available under other ADC programs.

A loan may be paid out at any time without penalty.

Applications are assessed on need and ADC acts as a lender of last resort.

Contact

Your nearest ADC loans officer

Disaster Assistance Program (Western)

Program Description

This program is intended to assist primary producers who have suffered an agricultural disaster, to maintain or regain a reasonable level of viability. This is a lending rather than a compensation program. An agricultural disaster is defined as "an occurrence to a farm operation that jeopardizes the viability of the farming operation."

Eligibility

Available to a producer who experienced a crop loss from excessive rainfall in northwestern Alberta in 1989 or western Alberta in 1990. The loss must have been such that it has jeopardized the viability of the farming operation. Loan repayment must be clearly demonstrated under this program. The applicant's farm operation must be in the area designated by the Western Alberta Disaster Assistance Program. Consideration may be given to affected farm operations in close proximity to the designated area.

Assistance

Direct loans may be made to a maximum of \$200,000. Loans already outstanding to ADC and Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program will not affect this loan limit. Assistance beyond this direct loan maximum will be offered through guaranteed loans.

The eligible loan amount will be established on an individual basis and will not exceed the actual amount of revenue that was lost due to the disaster and any additional costs associated with the loss of revenue. The eligible loan amounts will be reduced by any amount of assistance provided by other compensation programs.

Contact

Your nearest ADC loans officer.

Disaster Assistance Program (Northwestern)

Program Description

This program is intended to assist primary producers who have suffered from an agricultural disaster, to maintain or regain a reasonable level of viability. This is a lending rather than a compensation program. An agricultural disaster is defined as "an occurrence to a farm operation that jeopardizes the viability of the farming operation."

The purpose of the program is to restore sufficient working capital to maintain farming operations. This would include such items as cropping expenses, feed purchases, debt repayment, living expenses and any other farming purpose related to the disaster.

This program is a maintenance program, not intended to support expansion or further development.

Eligibility

Available to an applicant who:

- is actively farming in the area designated
- experienced a crop loss from excessive rainfall in 1989 that jeopardized the viability of the farming operation.

Loan repayment must be clearly demonstrated under this program. The applicant's qualification for this program must be established by Alberta Public Safety Services.

Assistance

See Disaster Assistance Program (Western)

Interest Rates - The rate on the 1989 Disaster Assistance Loan Program is 9 per cent. For the first two years of the loan, no interest will be charged and principal repayments will not be required. Principal and interest repayment will start after the second year. For example, on a 10 year term loan, the first two years would not have any interest or principal repayment; principal will be repaid over the remaining 8 years along with the appropriate interest.

Funding under this program will be over the length of time necessary to regain or maintain reasonable viability. Normally the term of the loan should not exceed the life expectancy of available security but exceptions will be made where a longer term is necessary to restore viability.

Loan terms should be established for as short a period as reasonably possible but should not exceed 10 years. A loan may be paid out at any time without notice, bonus or penalty.

Contact

Your nearest ADC loans officer.

Disaster Assistance Program (Southeastern)

The purpose of this program is to help re-establish the viability of farmers in parts of southeastern Alberta who have been seriously affected by drought.

Eligibility

Available to an applicant who:

- is actively farming in the area designated
- has experienced below-average dryland yields in any two of the three last years (1988, 1989, 1990)

- has experienced crop yields in one of those three years below basic 70 per cent Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance coverage.

Loan amounts will be based on the cumulative production losses for each crop grown for the period 1985 to 1990, on the ability to repay and demonstrated need for funds to maintain or restore viability.

Assistance

See Disaster Assistance Program (Western)

Contact

Your nearest ADC loans officer.

Farm Loan Guarantee Programs

There are two major programs in this category:

- Specific Guarantee Program
- Alberta Farm Development Loan (AFDL) Program

Under the Specific Guarantee Program, ADC determines whether or not the loan will be made, and the borrower finds another lender who will advance loan payments. Under the AFDL program, the lender determines whether or not the loan will be made, as well as advancing loan funds.

Under the Specific Guarantee Program and the Alberta Farm Development Loan Program, there are two incentive programs:

- Range and Soil Improvement Program
- Vegetable and Potato Storage Program

Specific Guarantee Program

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are those who cannot secure financing from the lender of their choice.

Assistance

Loans may be used for purchasing agricultural assets, providing operating capital and debt consolidation.

There is no maximum loan amount that can be guaranteed.

Interest rates, repayment options and security requirements vary. For specific details contact your nearest ADC loan officer.

Alberta Farm Development Loan (AFDL) Program

Eligibility

Anyone who is or intends to be a primary producer of agricultural products in Alberta.

Assistance

Funds may be used for:

- purchasing farm land
- operating capital
- constructing, altering, repairing or extending buildings on farm land owned or being purchased by the borrower, including the purchasing of mobile homes or other homes
- making permanent improvements designed to increase the productive value of farmlands which are owned or being purchased by the borrower
- purchasing trucks, agricultural implements and farm machinery and equipment
- purchasing livestock, and/or permitting an owner of existing heifers to retain them for breeding
- purchasing milk quota
- major repairs or overhauls, costing not less than \$1,000, of farm trucks and agricultural implements and equipment
- refinancing the principal balance outstanding on interest-free loans granted by manufacturers for the purchase of agricultural implements and equipment, where the interest free period has not expired
- consolidating farm-related trade accounts payable.

Loans up to a total of \$100,000 may be made to an individual, partnership or company.

Interest rates, repayment options and security requirements vary. For specific details contact your nearest ADC loans officer.

Apply directly to the lender of your choice.

Special Incentive Programs under the Specific Guarantee Program and Alberta Farm Development Loan (AFDL) Program

The following descriptions of the two Special Incentive Programs specify what purpose a loan must have in order to be eligible for an incentive.

For more information on the nature of the amount of the incentives available and to determine if your project qualifies, contact your nearest ADC loan officer.

Range and Soil Improvement Program

Purpose of loans eligible for incentives:

- brushing and/or breaking
- seeding pasture and hay lands to suitable tame species
- purchase and application of agricultural lime or marl
- deep ploughing of solonchetic soils
- brush control
- fence construction
- trails to improve animal access
- drainage
- land levelling to facilitate irrigation
- that portion of dugout construction/rehabilitation, dams, water well drilling not covered by other government programs.

For each individual farm or ranch a maximum loan of \$10,000 is eligible for an incentive. For a partnership or corporation the maximum is \$20,000.

Vegetable and Potato Storage Program

Purpose of loans eligible for incentive:

- constructing new potato and vegetable storage facilities
- modification or improvement of existing storage facilities
- improvement of production handling capabilities
- other purposes approved by ADC.

Maximum loan eligible for incentive is \$100,000.

Indexed Deferral Plan

Program Description

Reschedules loan payments according to an index of commodity prices whenever commodity prices vary from the 10 year average price of the commodity. Rescheduled payments are placed in a reserve at no interest cost to be repaid when commodity prices improve.

Available to eligible borrowers with existing direct loans at ADC as of May 1, 1988.

Demonstrating repayment ability is a key criterion.

Vendor Mortgage Plan

Program Description

Offers flexible, low interest rates and repayment terms for the purchaser, and an attractive rate of return for the seller.

Eligibility

Vendor

Any individual, partnership or company (not including financial institutions) which has resided in Alberta at least two of the last three years.

Borrower

Must have resided in Alberta at least one of the last three years and be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident; must actively farm the assets being purchased and be able to demonstrate repayment ability acceptable to ADC. Must meet personal equity requirements and eligibility criteria under Beginning Farmer Program.

Applicants not meeting these criteria must show that other financing is not available.

Assistance

Loans are available for purchasing land and existing permanent improvements. Borrowers may receive loans up to 75 per cent of the value of the security. ADC guarantees 80 per cent of the loan to the vendor.

Loan amounts are the same as for direct loans. Financing can be tailored to meet specific needs through the Vendor Mortgage Plan and other ADC loan programs. The interest rate charged to the borrower will be fixed for a five year term. It cannot exceed ADC's preferred lending rate. Loan amortization will be to a maximum of 20 years.

Contact

ADC head office at 679-1311 or the ADC loans officer nearest you.

Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI)

The Alberta Agricultural Research Institute is a provincial crown corporation established in 1987. The institute is governed by a Board of Directors.

The mission of the Institute is to co-ordinate, promote, prioritize and support agriculture and food research. The Institute ensures that the knowledge and technology that result from the research it supports are transferred to producers and processors and that they are used in fostering a viable and sustainable agri-food industry.

To fulfil its mission, the Institute operates a number of programs. It also has assumed the responsibility of administering the Farming for the Future Research and Demonstration Programs as of April 1, 1991. The following four Institute programs could be of direct interest to farmers and processors.

Farming for the Future Research Program

Program Description

This program is designed to support research projects that have the potential to enhance the long-term viability and profitability of Alberta's agri-food industry.

Eligibility

All qualified agricultural researchers working in public and private sector research organizations are eligible to apply for research funding under the program.

Farming for the Future On-Farm Demonstration Program

Program Description

The purpose of this program is to enable producers to become involved in regional on-farm testing and demonstration of new farm technol-

ogy, management techniques and crop variety testing.

Eligibility

Any producer or farm organization with an innovative idea for a demonstration that could benefit farmers in the region or the agriculture industry as a whole can apply for a grant under this program.

Matching Grants Program

Program Description

The objective of the program is to stimulate private sector support for agricultural research, and to provide matching funds (50:50) for joint projects with designated federal agencies or other provinces.

Eligibility

To qualify for this program, researchers must have already obtained matching support from an eligible source. Such sources include private companies, foundations, individuals, farm groups, non-Alberta provincial agencies and designated federal agencies. Federal funds must be "new" dollars, which means they must not have been diverted from an existing program or funding which already applied to Alberta.

Research Co-ordination Program

Program Description

The aim of this program is to promote co-operation among agricultural researchers in Alberta so that they can maximize exchange of information and minimize overlap or unnecessary duplication.

Eligibility

Established researchers employed by various organizations within the province, including producer associations, are eligible to apply for support.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office
or
Alberta Agriculture
Research Division
202, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 427-1956

Alberta Agriculture

In addition to supporting and administering the programs and services listed in this section, Alberta Agriculture is also a major source of information and training for the agriculture industry in Alberta. The Department serves farm families through individual consultations, seminars, courses, conferences, publications, radio broadcasts, press releases and videos. For more details on the information, training and services available from the Department, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

To find the district office nearest you, consult the map on the following page or call one of the regional offices listed below.

Copies of Alberta Agriculture publications may also be obtained directly from:

Alberta Agriculture
Print Media Branch
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

Field Services Division Regional Offices:

Region I (Southern) - Lethbridge

Alberta Agriculture Regional Office
Agriculture Centre
Jail Road
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1J 4C7
Phone: 381-5130

Region II (South Central) - Airdrie

Alberta Agriculture Regional Office
Agriculture Centre
Bag Service #1
Airdrie, Alberta
T0M 0B0
Phone: 948-8511

Region III (North Central) - Red Deer

Alberta Agriculture Regional Office
Provincial Building
3rd Floor, 4920 - 51 Street
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 6K8
Phone: 340-5376

Region IV (Northeast) - Vermilion

Alberta Agriculture Regional Office
Provincial Building
Box 330
Vermilion, Alberta
T0B 4M0
Phone: 853-8109

Region V (Northwest) - Barrhead

Alberta Agriculture Regional Office
Provincial Building
Box 1540
Barrhead, Alberta
T0G 0E0
Phone: 674-8264

Region VI (Peace) - Fairview

Alberta Agriculture Regional Office
Provincial Building
Box 7777
Fairview, Alberta
T0H 1L0
Phone: 835-2291



Regions and Districts

Region 1	Southern
Region 2	South Central
Region 3	North Central
Region 4	North East
Region 5	North West
Region 6	Peace River

Regional Office ☐

District Office •



Agricultural Service Boards

Program Description

Under the Agriculture Service Board Act, local service boards within rural municipalities carry out projects and programs related to both provincial and local agricultural priorities. The boards also assist farmers in meeting the requirements of provincial acts and provide the personnel and funds to enforce the acts.

Eligibility

Any rural municipality may apply for these grants through their agricultural service boards.

Assistance

Some eligible projects include:

- providing specialized equipment such as portable scales, pumping equipment, grass seeders and sprayers
- weed control programs
- soil erosion prevention and soil reclamation programs
- on-farm water management programs
- shelter belt and horticultural beautification programs
- extension and demonstration programs
- livestock improvement and protection programs.

Boards may apply for provincial grants through Alberta Agriculture. The grant amount allocated may be used to cover up to 60 per cent of the cost of executing approved programs. All remaining costs are assumed by the municipality and/or farmer.

Contact

Your local agricultural service board

Agri-Food and Processing Development Assistance Programs

The information on contacts is common for the next programs and is found after the program description on the Farmers' Market program.

Financial Assistance for Agri-Food Companies

Program Description

The following activities are eligible for assistance:

Increasing technology awareness – assistance for out-of-province travel expenses to evaluate new processes, products or packaging technology not available in Alberta and related to a specific company project. Assistance is normally limited to one person per trip for a maximum of five days.

Product/process development – assistance for direct expenses related to research and development of products or processes new to the applicant. This assistance is on a 50:50 cost-shared basis. Expenses covered may include: net material losses; consulting fees for specialized, professional or technical assistance; cost of product or process testing done at a facility other than the Food Processing Development Centre, Leduc; equipment evaluation; and equipment development cost for modifications to existing equipment and/or new equipment systems designs.

Promotional materials – assistance for the development of promotional materials for the marketing of agri-food products. Projects should be related to new products or product lines, new processes or new markets for the applicant. Costs related to advertising time or space are not considered eligible. Assistance available is up to 90 per cent of the eligible expenses related to the project.

Packaging materials – assistance for the development or modification of packaging and/or labelling of products. Projects should be related to new products or product lines, new processes or new markets for the applicant. Assistance available is up to 50 per cent of the eligible expenses related to the project.

Management or marketing education – support is available on a 50:50 cost share basis for marketing or management education programs. Eligible expenses include economy round trip transportation, course fees and associated institutional expenses.

Feasibility studies – assistance is provided on a 50:50 cost-shared basis for feasibility studies conducted by a third party consultant.

Developmental activities – assistance for activities aimed at industry development and strengthening of marketing capability.

Commodity Development Assistance Program

Program Description

Assistance is available to commodity associations, marketing boards or commissions for the development of their organization and promotion of their commodity, industry or breed. Applicants are expected to demonstrate that the requested funding will benefit the long-term growth and viability of the commodity, industry or breed organization.

Funds may be used for the following developmental projects.

- to develop goals and strategies, and the subsequent marketing and business plans
- to support marketing and promotional initiatives such as seminars and meetings, field days, marketing research, hosing of shows and congresses, etc.
- to direct industry and policy initiatives and enhance marketing opportunities
- to develop effective leadership skills
- to support co-operative or joint efforts that increase the efficiency of administration or enhance the marketing activities of the industry
- to support initiatives that promote diversification or added value to the commodity.

Eligibility

The organization must be provincial. Interprovincial commodity associations are eligible for funds if there is no provincial association representing that commodity. They may receive support to a level reflecting Alberta's share of production of that commodity.

Assistance

Assistance will be provided for project based activities of the organization to a normal maximum of three years for any single project.

Grants are normally made on a 50:50 cost shared basis with a maximum in any one fiscal year of \$25,000 for commodity associations and \$10,000 for commissions and marketing boards.

Farmers' Market Assistance Program

Program Description

Assistance may be available to community organizations which meet the requirements specified in

the Farmers' Market Guidelines. The program supports the development and promotion of farmers' markets as viable outlets for direct sale of Alberta produced goods, commodities and value-added products directly from producer to consumer.

Contact

Agri-Food and Processing Development Branch
Alberta Agriculture
3rd Floor, J. G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

Alberta 4-H Program

Program Description

Local clubs are organized to provide rural youths with informal technical training and opportunities for self-development. Club members have a variety of technical projects to choose from and are encouraged to enhance their inter-personal and leadership skills through public speaking programs, workshops, seminars, camps and various other development activities.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office or
4-H Branch
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
Room 200
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 422-4444

Alberta Crow Benefit Offset Program

Program Description

This program offsets the distortion in Alberta feed grain prices which results from the current method of payment of the federal Crow Benefit directly to the railways.

Eligibility

All livestock producers are eligible. The program has two parts and livestock producers can apply for one or both parts.

Assistance

Certificate Option - This option is for livestock producers who are net purchasers of feed grain that is consumed as livestock feed within the province.

If more grain is fed than produced, producers can register with Alberta Agriculture and will be issued certificates which can be used as partial payment when purchasing feed grain. These certificates can be exchanged by feed grain producers at Alberta Agriculture district offices for a cheque based on \$10.00 per tonne. Feed grain producers may also receive certificates when they sell to grain merchants.

Farm Fed Option - The farm fed option is for livestock producers who both produce and use their grain for feed.

These producers can register with Alberta Agriculture, get approval for maximum tonnage and claim \$10.00 for each tonne of grain fed, up to this maximum.

Note: Those livestock producers who use both farm-grown and purchased feed grain can register under both options.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office or
Program Administrator
Alberta Crow Benefit Offset Program
Park Square, 11th Floor
10001 Bellamy Hill
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3B6

Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan

Program Description

Alberta farmers purchase \$300 million of fertilizer annually, representing nearly 30 per cent of the cash input costs incurred in crop production. This program provides a rebate to Alberta farmers to help reduce the cost of fertilizer.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the fertilizer must be purchased from a recognized dealer or agent, delivered and paid for, and used on farm land in Alberta between August 1, 1984 and July 31, 1991. Payment is based on \$50/tonne of actual nitrogen and \$25/tonne of actual phosphate contained in fertilizer grades.

Application deadline is January 31, 1992.

Individuals, proprietorships, corporations, recognized or unrecognized partnerships and other organizations such as Indian reserves, Metis associations and Hutterite colonies are eligible.

Assistance

Application forms may be acquired at your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office or
Central Program Support
Alberta Agriculture
J.G. O'Donoghue Bldg.
7000-113 St.
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 422-9167 or 1-800-642-3873 toll free

Alberta Farm Implement Act Administration

Program Description

The Farm Implement Act Administration is set up to administer the Farm Implement Act and assist farmers in: settling warranty complaints, mediating other disputes arising over farm machinery, expediting emergency repair parts orders and procuring obsolete parts.

Contact

F.I.A.A. Inspector
201, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 427-2188

F.I.A.A. Inspector
Box 250
Olds, Alberta
T0M 1P0
Phone: 556-4223

Alberta Private Irrigation Development Assistance Program

Program Description

This program provides financial assistance to agricultural producers across Alberta to develop individual irrigation projects from water sources outside the works of the organized irrigation districts. It helps defray the producers' costs associated with the construction of the capital works necessary to divert and convey water from an available source to their land for irrigation purposes.

Funding became available April 1, 1989, and the program is scheduled to operate and accept applications until March 31, 1994.

Eligibility

The program is available to individuals or groups of bona fide Alberta farmers and ranchers. Under the program, partnerships, corporate farms and farming colonies are considered single farm units.

Projects must be authorized through a current interim water license and the development must be for NEW irrigated areas.

Assistance

All projects must receive preconstruction approval from Alberta Agriculture's Irrigation Branch. Only the portion of the water delivery system that diverts water from its source and conveys it to the edge of the irrigated field is eligible for funding. All approved services, materials, equipment, earth-moving permits and contracted labour are eligible for cost sharing.

The province will reimburse 50 per cent of the irrigation project development costs up to a maximum of \$150 per new irrigable acres of development or \$30,000 per licensed irrigation project, whichever is less. In addition, required water metering equipment costs are reimbursed up to 75 per cent.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office
or
Irrigation Branch district offices
Southern Alberta 381-5864
Central and Northern Alberta 948-8540
or

Alberta Agriculture
Irrigation Branch
Agriculture Centre
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1J 4C7

Phone: 381-5140 or 181-5140 on the RITE system

Beeyard Compensation Program

Program Description

The program provides compensation for the loss of beehives and equipment due to bear activity.

Eligibility

Those claiming loss must be registered beekeepers in Alberta and have at least forty hives. The beeyard must be fenced with a four-wire electrified fence.

Assistance

Payment is paid on up to 80 per cent of the assessed loss.

Contact

Beeyard Compensation Program
9th Floor, O.S. Longman Building
6909 - 116 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 4P2

Business Analysis Service

Program Description

Staff members of the Business Analysis Branch are available to provide management information and assistance to developing agribusiness firms and related organizations in the areas of finance, accounting and business management.

They offer:

- counselling in financial planning and control
- input into feasibility studies and capital improvement proposals and
- information on financial assistance programs available to agribusiness clientele.

Contact

Alberta Agriculture
Business Analysis Branch
#304, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Attention: Senior Business Analyst
Phone: 427-5374

Canada/Alberta Agriculture Processing and Marketing Sub-Agreement

Program Description

The Canada/Alberta Sub-Agreement on Agricultural Processing and Marketing is a joint federal/provincial initiative. The objectives of the agreement are:

- to enhance the competitiveness of the existing agricultural processing industry in Alberta, and
- to encourage and facilitate new private sector investment in the agricultural processing industry. This will further processing in Alberta those agricultural, food and related products that have the potential for domestic and export growth or import replacement.

There are three programs under the Sub-Agreement:

- Development Assistance Program
- Feasibility Studies and
- Research and Development Assistance

The APMA program concludes March 31, 1991. A replacement program is being considered.

Contact

Alberta Agriculture
Rural Development Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 3rd Floor
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
(403) 427-4287

or
Western Economic Diversification Canada
Canada Place, Suite 1500
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4H7
(403) 495-4164

Emergency Dugout Pumping Program

Program Description

This program provides equipment on a rental basis for the filling of farm dugouts which were not filled by runoff and precipitation.

Eligibility

Farmers and ranchers.

Assistance

The fees for the use of the program are \$100 per day per pump and \$200/day for the first mile of pipe. Additional charges are made at the rate of \$50/day for each additional pump and \$100/day for each additional mile of pipe or portions thereof.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Exhibitors' Assistance at Royal Agriculture Winter Fair

Program Description

To encourage exhibiting at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto an honorarium of \$200 is provided for any grand champion and \$150 for any reserve champion prize won in the pedigree cereals, oil-seeds and forage seed classes.

Contact

Supervisor
Seed Technology
Field Crops Branch
Alberta Agriculture
Bag Service 47
Lacombe, Alberta
T0C 1S0
Phone: 782-4641 or 151-7152 on the RITE system

Farmers' Advocate

Program Description

The farmer's advocate is an individual with an agricultural background and experience in farming appointed by the provincial government to deal with problems and complaints of farmers. This person also communicates with farm organizations and is available for public information meetings on such subjects as surface rights, seismic activity, mineral leasing, trespass and other topics of concern. This office also acts as an appeal body for the Livestock Predator and Beeyard Compensation Programs and administers the Water Well Restoration Program all of which are described elsewhere in this publication. The farmer's advocate may assist in settling disputes involving farm equipment that are not covered by the Alberta Farm Implement Act.

Eligible

Any farmer or rancher who believes that he has suffered an injustice through the actions of another party and seeks a solution to the problem may place a complaint.

Assistance

Farmers are advised to send their complaints in writing with all the details of the problem.

The advocate cannot represent the farmer in a court case but where there is a legitimate complaint can consult with all parties concerned and act to settle a dispute by acting as a mediator.

Contact

Office of the Farmers' Advocate of Alberta
305, 7000 - 113 Street
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 427-2433

Farm Financial Advisory Service

Program Description

This service is funded as part of the Canada/Alberta Farm Management Agreement.

The Farm Financial Advisory Service offers producers the opportunity to discuss their operations with practising farmers trained in financial and farm management. The program is designed to provide a consulting service for all farmers seeking financial advice.

The program provides independent, confidential assistance to farm families in the area of financial management by:

- assisting in the preparation of statements that describe the present financial situation of the business
- helping to understand the situation
- helping to identify the problem areas
- assisting in the determination of viable alternatives which could improve profitability and cash flow
- looking at appropriate actions
- assisting in making preparations for discussing proposals with lenders

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office or
Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation

Farm Weather Line

The objective of the program is to provide Alberta farmers with telephone access to current agricultural weather forecasts. It is a joint effort between Alberta Agriculture and Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service (AES).

Agricultural forecasts are prepared by AES and updated daily at 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Farmers are able to call the nearest Farm Weather Line and obtain a recorded agricultural weather forecast for their region.

The Farm Weather Line operates year round.

The Alberta Agricultural Weather Summary is a separate publication that provides data on recent past weather which is not generally available to agricultural interests from any other source. Weekly and monthly summaries provide average temperature and precipitation compared to the same time period the previous year and the long term average.

Contact

For weather forecasts:

Peace and Northern Region - includes High Level, Peace River, Grande Prairie and Slave Lake

Phone: 539-7654

North Central Alberta - includes St. Paul, Edmonton, Edson and Lloydminster

Phone: 468-9196

Red Deer Region

Phone: 342-7322

Coronation Region

Phone: 342-7322

Calgary Region

Phone: 295-1003

South Eastern Alberta - Medicine Hat

Phone: 526-6224

South Western Alberta - Lethbridge

Phone: 328-7246

To obtain copies of the Weather Summary contact:

Agricultural Weather Resource Specialist
Conservation and Development Branch
Alberta Agriculture
206 - 7000 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: (403) 422-4385

For more information on weather problems write:

Environment Canada
Atmospheric Environment Service
Twin Atria Building
2nd Floor, 4999 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6B 2X3

Feed Testing Service

Program Description

Services provided include analyzing of farm grown feedstuffs and crops for primary producers, recommending ration requirements and help with crop production problems.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office or
Alberta Agriculture
Agricultural Soils and Animal Nutrition Laboratory
905 O.S. Longman Building
6909 - 116 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 4P2
Phone: 427-6361

Feeder Associations Guarantee Act

Program Description

The main purpose of the Feeder Associations Guarantee Act is to provide farmers with an alternative method of financing cattle for growing and finishing purposes. The program offers many farmers the opportunity to diversify their farm operation which in turn assists in diversifying Alberta's agricultural economy.

Eligibility

All members of local feeder associations are eligible for financing under this act.

Assistance

New feeder association members can have up to \$30,000 worth of livestock purchased by the association on their behalf. After one year, members may receive financing for up to \$100,000 worth of livestock subject to approval by their local board. Prior to receiving livestock, members must provide the association with a security deposit of 5 per cent of the value of their purchase.

Although members make all their own decisions and arrangements relative to livestock purchases and related matters, the local association retains legal ownership of cattle purchased under this program.

Contact

Your local feeder association or
Head
Feeder Associations
Alberta Agriculture
911 - 32 Avenue NE
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 6X6
Phone: 297-5662

Food Laboratory Service

Program Description

The Food Laboratory Service provides analysis and extension services to all sectors of the Alberta food industry, food exporters and various government agencies concerned with food production, processing, quality, safety, nutritional values, inspection, transportation, exports and retail trade.

Analytical assistance is provided through their Edmonton laboratory in the following areas:

Food chemistry - conducts various food compositional analyses (including nutritional components for labelling purposes), vitamins, additives, amino acids, pesticide, herbicide and PCB residues, heavy metals, and other micro elements.

Food microbiology - carries out various procedures to determine number and types of microorganisms (including pathogens) that may be present in foods, food ingredients, processing equipment or packaging materials. Tests for the presence of antibiotic residues are also conducted.

Central milk testing laboratory - analyzes milk samples from all dairy producers in Alberta and payments are made to producers on the ba-

sis of these results. This laboratory also conducts tests related to Alberta's Dairy Herd Improvement Program.

Cost

Minimal charges are effective on samples submitted by food processors, producers, exporters, retailers or other parties involved in the food business.

Contact

Food Laboratory Services
Alberta Agriculture
5th Floor, O. S. Longman Building
6909 - 116 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 4P2
Attention: Dr. David J. Schroder, Director
Phone: 427-4054
FAX: 436-9454

Food Processing Development Centre

Program Description

The Food Processing Development Centre (FPDC) of Alberta Agriculture, is situated at Leduc, Alberta approximately 14 kilometres south of Edmonton. The 30,000 square foot facility situated on 10 acres of land was built in 1984 at a cost of \$8.5 million.

The Centre, employing 14 full and part-time staff, aims to increase the capabilities of Alberta food processors through market driven technology transfer. This transfer takes place through application of appropriate technology towards the development of new products and processes.

The Centre is organized into three distinct sections: product development, process development and specialty projects.

Eligibility

The Centre is available to food processing entrepreneurs, industrial development groups, institutional researchers as well as government personnel.

Assistance

Product Development - The Centre provides product development services including assessment of ingredients, new product formulation, or improvement of existing formulations. The product development laboratory offers complete

analytical services including physical, chemical and microbiological measurements. The section contains a test kitchen suitable for consumer or institutional preparation. Associated with the test kitchen, a sensory evaluation laboratory conducts taste panels including colour and texture measurement.

The product development section specializes in packaging technology development and assessment, especially in the area of modified atmosphere packaging.

As an integrated service the product development section will assist in initial product assessment, prototype development and eventual pilot-plant scale-up.

Development - The Centre's process development section offers complete pilot-plant services. Equipment is available to perform operations such as heat transfer (retorts, heat exchangers); size reduction (grinding, custom blending); and concentration (vacuum evaporation, ultra filtration). The pilot plant facility contains packaging equipment (both rigid and flexible) and a modern, continuous commercial size batter/breading/frying and freezing line.

The Centre's meat processing area is operated under federal meat inspection regulations and includes whole muscle meat processing (ham, picnics, etc.) as well as comminuted processing (raw, cooked or smoked sausage products).

Special Projects - The special projects section of the Centre provides technical information services aiding in the resolution of regulatory requirements in formulation, processing, labeling and packaging. In addition the special projects section spurs innovation in the food processing industry by developing and promoting new product and processing ideas. These ideas, gleaned from many areas are assessed, developed and promoted at the Centre.

Cost

Costs to Alberta-based organizations are minimal. Materials and supplies are paid for by the client. Limited contract production is available with fees varying according to the extent and complexity of the project.

Contact

Dr. Robert Myhara, Head
Food Processing Development Centre
Box 3476
Leduc, Alberta
T9E 6M2
Phone: 986-4793
FAX: 986-5138

Laboratory Product Development Service

Assistance

The centre provides product development laboratories containing extensive equipment and facilities for new or improved product formulation, ingredient assessment, physical property evaluation, shelf-life and product stability testing, packaging systems evaluation, and chemical and microbiological analysis. Laboratory services may involve preliminary concept and prototype development and evaluation prior to pilot plant or commercial scale-up.

This section has a test kitchen which can simulate consumer or institutional food preparation methods. A sensory evaluation laboratory is devoted to taste panels for flavour, colour and texture analysis.

Cost

Extended time, equipment or material usage will be billed to clients. Clients may be encouraged to provide their own staff for extended or complex projects. Results remain the property of the client and are kept confidential.

Contact

See Food Processing Development Centre above

Pilot Plant Process Development Service

Assistance

Eligible user groups have access to available equipment, selected on the basis of unit operations. For example, heat transfer; forming; size reduction; solid-solid, liquid-liquid and solid-liquid separation; thermal and membrane concentration; mixing and packaging can be integrated into process lines. Dedicated equipment such as batter/breader, fryer and spiral freezers are maintained as fixed continuous process lines. The centre's meat processing area is operated under federal meat inspection regulations and

meets all the requirements for the reshipment of products containing meat ingredients.

Results remain the property of the client and are kept confidential.

Use of the Centre's equipment and facilities are provided on a contractual fee for service basis.

Contact

See Food Processing Development Centre above

Technical and Information Services

Assistance

Information service - The centre provides an information service that assists in the acquisition, interpretation and adaptation of scientific or technical literature to resolve specific technical problems. Also available is an advisory service to meet regulatory requirements in formulation, processing, labelling, and packaging. The information centre maintains current food industry trade journals, reference books, ingredient and equipment listings and is augmented by a computerized information retrieval database system for servicing client requests.

Technical service - Technical assistance can be provided at a processor's facility for trouble shooting, quality assessment, product development, plant start-up, and process and equipment modifications.

Cost

Some basic or initial services are provided free of charge. Extended time, equipment or material usage will be billed to clients on a cost-recoverable basis. Results remain the property of the client and are kept confidential.

Contact

See Food Processing Development Centre above

Green Certificate Program

Program Description

This program provides a new way for career-minded individuals to learn production and management skills required for today's modern farm operations. The majority of the funding comes from Alberta Agriculture and Career Development and Employment.

The program's goal is to train individuals to competently fill key roles in the farming industry. It emphasizes the development of technical and managerial skills in those desiring to enter or continue a career in farming as a general farm technician or herdsman/production manager or farm business manager/farmer.

The trainee receives most of his/her training through apprenticeship under a competent trainer-farmer who is responsible for the major assessment of the trainee's proficiency in farming skills. The program operates on a group basis with intake in spring, fall and winter.

Eligibility

Training farms are approved on the basis of the training capabilities of the operator, and the facilities and enterprise experience that they can provide for the trainee. The farmer applicants must have successfully managed their present operation for 4 - 5 years minimum and may not train members of their immediate family.

Assistance

Farmers are partially compensated for the responsibilities of training and off-farm courses are supported. Employers are expected to invest time and money in training the right staff.

Farm Technician training will be completed in 9 months and Herdsman/Supervisor training will be done over a 12 month period.

Contact

Green Certificate Program
Agriculture Education Branch
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 -113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 427-2173

Greenhouse Industry Assistance Program

Program Description

The Greenhouse Industry Assistance Program is designed to help producers with the adoption of new technology, the upgrading of production systems and crop diversification.

Eligibility

To be eligible for assistance, a producer must have a minimum of 6,000 square feet of space

producing greenhouse crops for at least six months of the year. Assistance is available to both new and existing greenhouse producers.

Projects will be reviewed and recommended for approval by a departmental committee.

The program will run until March 31, 1993.

Assistance

This program will provide grants to producers who purchase, develop or manufacture and install technical innovations in new and existing structures. These innovations may be in the form of equipment, structural or operational components.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- environmental and irrigation control computer systems
- supplementary lighting
- crop shading and cooling systems
- energy saving curtains
- crop diversification initiatives
- specific production improvement modifications.

Funding will be based on half the total cost of eligible projects, to a maximum of \$1.00 per square foot of production space to an overall maximum of \$40,000 per operation for the life of the program.

Contact

Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Centre
Bag Service 200
Brooks, Alberta
T0J 0J0
Phone: 362-3391
or
Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre
R.R. #6
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 4K3
Phone: 422-1789

Home Study Courses

Program Description

The home study section of Alberta Agriculture offers a variety of agriculture-related courses and computer software for study and use at home. Home study courses are also offered by Olds College and Lakeland College.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office
or
Home Study
Agriculture Education Branch
2nd Floor, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

Home Study Office
Olds College
Olds, Alberta
T0M 1P0
Phone: 556-4622

Home Study Division
Lakeland College
Vermilion, Alberta
T0B 4M0
Phone: 853-8444

Livestock Predator Compensation Program

Program Description

This program compensates producers for loss of cattle, swine, sheep, goats and poultry to predators.

Assistance

Payment is based on up to 100 per cent of the slaughter value or commercial market value of animals at time of loss. Predator kill must be verified by a public official. There is also partial payment on probable losses associated with confirmed losses. There is no compensation for missing animals or losses caused by dogs. An annual deductible cost of \$100 is now applied to each claim.

Contact

Livestock Predator Compensation Program
Alberta Agriculture
9th Floor, O.S. Longman Building
6909 - 116 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 4P2

Livestock Regulatory Services

Program Description

Services include registration, renewal and transfer of cattle and horse brands, maintaining and providing information from brand inspection records as well as providing information. This office is also responsible for licensing livestock dealers, agents and stockyards to protect livestock producers from unscrupulous trade practices. They maintain and coordinate current information on all missing and stolen livestock.

Contact

Co-ordinator
Regulatory Services
Alberta Agriculture
4809 - 48 Street
P.O. Bag 600
Stettler, Alberta
T0C 2L0
Phone: 742-7564 or 153-7570 on the RITE system

Market Development Program

Program Description

The Market Development Program provides information, advice and financial assistance in the form of grants in order to encourage the long-term development of markets for Alberta's agricultural commodities, processed foods, feed products and services, both in Canada and abroad.

Eligibility

Any Alberta-based company, association, processor, marketer or consultant involved in agricultural production, processing, marketing or consulting may apply for assistance under this program. The product or service must include substantial Alberta content.

Organizations should:

- have the ability or demonstrate potential for competitive market performance in the market being pursued
- demonstrate satisfactory financial and management strengths
- be prepared to accept monitoring or follow-up on the project
- provide a marketing plan.

For financial assistance on out-of-Canada projects, application must first be made under the Program for Export Market Development (PEMD). See page 66.

Assistance

Total assistance will relate to potential sales as well as current sales levels.

Appropriate receipts must be provided for travel costs. Applications should be submitted four to six weeks in advance.

Grants are provided to support a portion of expenses for exhibitions and trade fairs, incoming and outgoing market development missions, market and feasibility studies, and other market development activities.

Contact

Market Development
Alberta Agriculture
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 427-4241
FAX: 427-9746
Attention: Executive Director

National Tripartite Price Stabilization Program

Program Description

The national tripartite price stabilization programs are established by federal/provincial agreements. NTSP programs are commodity specific and have been implemented for the purpose of stabilizing market returns to producers to help offset risks associated with income fluctuations resulting from cyclical changes to cost of production and/or market prices.

Terms

National tripartite price stabilization programs are designed to run for a period of ten years. The programs are based on the following principles:

- All producers enrolled in a program shall receive the same level of support per unit of marketed production.
- Premiums will be shared by the government of Canada, the governments of participating provinces and participating producers.
- Producer participation is voluntary.
- The programs are designed to be financially sound (the premiums of government and pro-

ducers plus interest should equal total payment over time).

- The premiums should operate at a level that limits losses but does not stimulate production.
- A comparable level of support will be provided in all tripartite stabilization commodity plans.

Eligibility

A producer must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada. A partnership, corporation or cooperative or other organization can enrol if 50 per cent or more of its partners, members or shareholders are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada and hold 50 per cent or more of the beneficial ownership. The producer must enrol in the province where income taxes from the production are payable.

Summary of Plans

Cow-Calf: The basis of support for the cow-calf stabilization plan is 85 per cent of the indexed moving average price for weaned calves in the Fall, defined as the national average market price in the preceding ten years indexed for inflation. To enter the plan producers must enrol by April 1 of each year.

Slaughter Cattle/Feeder Cattle: A producer may enrol in a slaughter cattle plan, the feeder cattle plan or in a combined slaughter cattle, feeder cattle option. The basis of support for each of these commodities is a guaranteed margin approach which includes cash costs for each month plus 85 per cent of the margin for the same month in the preceding five years. Producers wishing to enrol in the slaughter cattle and/or feeder cattle plans must do so 30 days prior to the start of a quarter with each quarter commencing January, April, July and October.

Hogs: The basis of support for the hog stabilization plan is cash costs for the quarter plus 95 per cent of the margin for the same quarter in the preceding five years (GM 95). Producers may enter the plan by enrolling 30 days prior to the start of any quarter.

Lambs: The lamb plan support formula is 95 per cent of the indexed moving average price. Two options are available under the lamb plan: a quarterly based home raised lamb production option and an ewe flock option. Producers wishing to enrol must do so prior to March 1 of each year.

Sugar Beets: The basis of support for the sugar beet plan is 75 per cent of the current cash cost of production plus 20 per cent of the indexed moving average price received for sugar beets in the

preceding 15 years. Producers wishing to enrol in any year must do so prior to August 31 of that year.

Beans: The basis of support for the bean plan is the cash cost of production in the current year plus 90 per cent of the average margin in the preceding seven years. Producers may enrol in any year prior to June 31 of that year.

Honey: The basis of support for the honey stabilization plan is 90 per cent of the previous seven year indexed moving average price of honey. Producers wishing to enrol must do so by June 1 of each year.

Note: A producer who commences production/marketing of a tripartite commodity may enrol in the appropriate plan by the deadline specified and be eligible for 100 per cent coverage. An established producer who has not enrolled in any of the plans may join at any time but may be subject to late entry penalties.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district offices or

Red Meat Plans Contact:
Central Program Support
Alberta Agriculture
306, J. G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 422-0137 or 1-800-232-9479 toll free

Specialty Crop Commodities Contact:
Central Program Support
Alberta Agriculture
9th Floor, Park Square
10001 Bellamy Hill
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3B6
Phone: 422-5879 or 1-800-642-3873 toll free

Plant Disease and Insect Identification and Control Programs/Plant Identification and Weed Control Programs

The services provided include identification and control recommendations for plant diseases, insect infestations and weeds.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office or

Alberta Environment Centre
Bag Service 4000
Vegreville, Alberta
T0B 4L0
Phone: 632-8211

Regional Crops Laboratory
Horticulture Research Centre
Brooks, Alberta
T0J 0J0
Phone: 362-3391

Regional Crops Laboratory
Alberta Agriculture
Box 7777
Fairview, Alberta
T0H 1L0
Phone: 835-2291

Seed Cleaning Plants

Program Description

Authorized under the Agricultural Service Board Act, the Municipal Co-operative Seed Cleaning Plant program is designed to provide high quality seed cleaning and minimize the spread of weed seeds. Funds are provided, on a cost sharing basis, for establishment, upgrading and replacement.

Contact

Field Crops Branch
Alberta Agriculture
Bag Service #47
Lacombe, Alberta
T0C 1S0
Phone: 782-4641 or 151-7152 on the RITE System
FAX: 782-5514

Shelter Belt Tree Program

Program Description

Under the policy governing this program, trees and shrubs of seedling size shall be distributed from the Alberta Tree Nursery. Trees will be supplied to farmers for farmstead shelter belts, field windbreaks and roadside hedges.

Eligibility

Farmers will be defined as those individuals who are primary producers of crops and livestock and this definition will be used to determine the acceptability of any particular applicant.

Assistance

Charges for Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre plants are as follows

Application Fee: \$25

Tall deciduous:

Poplars and willows: \$0.24 each

Manitoba maple, green ash,
burr oak, and white birch: \$0.40 each

Small deciduous:

Mayday, chokecherry,
Russian olive, sea buckthorn
and red elder: \$0.36 each

Hedge plants:

Caragana: \$0.12 each

Lilacs, honeysuckle,
dogwood, roses, buffaloberry,
cherry prinsepia: \$0.32 each

Coniferous trees:

Spruce, pines, larch: \$0.56 each

Conservation bundle: \$4.60 each

Applications will be accepted between June 1
and November 1.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office

Soil Testing Service

Program Description

The Soil Testing Service determines plant available nutrient contents, soil acidity, alkalinity, soluble salts and levels of elements such as aluminum and manganese. Recommendations for fertility and cultural practices are then made to the submitter.

Contact

Your local Alberta Agriculture district office
or

The Agricultural Soils and Animal Nutrition
Laboratory

Alberta Agriculture

905, O.S. Longman Building

6909 - 116 Street

Edmonton, Alberta

T6H 4P2

Phone: 427-6361

Alberta Career Development and Employment

Employment Alternatives Program

Program Description

This program provides individuals with the opportunity to gain work experience and training that will enable them to secure permanent employment.

Eligibility

To be eligible a prospective employee's unemployment insurance benefits must have expired and/or they must be receiving social assistance. They must be legally entitled to work in Canada and must be hired on a full-time basis for a minimum of six months. Their position must not affect security or hours of work of present employees and the position must be filled after the application has been approved.

Assistance

Employers will be reimbursed for 60 per cent of the wages paid with the maximum contribution being \$4.00/hour. The program will also cover 75 per cent of tuition costs for approved job related courses or external instructor costs for formal in-house training, to a maximum of \$1,000.

Contact

Nearest Alberta Career Development and Employment office

Skills Alberta

Program Description

This program offers consultation to assist employees to identify immediate and long term needs, and if necessary, incentives to employers to provide training.

Eligibility

While most training may be eligible for funding support, priority will be given to training for:

- in-house staff trainers
- economic diversification
- work-based literacy and numeracy
- local training priorities.

Those who can apply include private sector employers and non-profit organizations with less than 500 employees, with the exception of:

- provincial or federal government departments, boards, councils, agencies, commissions and Crown corporations
- post-secondary institutions
- municipalities
- schools or school boards
- hospitals or hospital boards
- Indian bands
- Metis settlements.

Eligible trainees include employees 16 years of age or older who are legally entitled to work in Canada and are currently working and living in Alberta. Owners and partners of organizations who are currently working and living in Alberta and involved in the operation of the organization are also eligible.

Assistance

Applications are assessed on the basis of the employer's plan for training and will apply only to direct training costs incurred. The level of financial assistance may vary from 40 per cent to 80 per cent of direct training costs depending on the nature of the training. Maximum annual funding per employer is \$25,000.

Co-operative or joint ventures between two or more employers are encouraged.

Contact

Your nearest Alberta Career Development and Employment office
Box 1630
Brooks, Alberta
T0J 0J0

209, Post Office Building
Lethbridge, Alberta
704 - 4 Avenue South
T1J 0N8

2003 McKnight Boulevard
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 6L2

Box 1660
Drumheller, Alberta
T0J 0Y0

Box 220
Vegreville, Alberta
T0B 4L0

Box 978
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 5H3

4811 - 51 Street
Wetaskiwin, Alberta
T9A 1L1

203, 4901 - 50 Avenue
Camrose, Alberta
T4V 0S2

#9A, Dalton Square
8103 - 127 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5C 1R9

10135 - 101 Avenue
Grande Prairie, Alberta
T8V 0Y4

Alberta Economic Development and Trade

Capital Loan Guarantee Program

Program Description

This program enhances small business access to credit by providing guarantees to lenders. The program will offer small business a greater opportunity to grow and expand.

The Province of Alberta will provide a guarantee of 80 per cent of lenders' losses on new loans made to small businesses by participating lending institutions.

Guaranteed loans are anticipated to be available on June 26, 1989. Once it begins the program will run for two years or until allotted funds have been used.

Eligibility

Corporations, proprietorships, partnerships and cooperatives are eligible if:

- total revenues or sales over the past fiscal year were \$5 million or less
- majority of shareholders or owners are residents of Alberta
- more than 75 per cent of employees are Albertans
- 50 per cent or more of income is derived from "active business income".

New loans, if they are made for construction, acquisition and improvement of fixed assets are eligible. New term loans to provide additional working capital are eligible if fixed assets or other forms of security acceptable to the lending institution are provided. Refinancing of an existing loan is not eligible.

Eligible loans to a maximum aggregate total of \$100,000 per eligible small business will qualify.

The lending institutions will determine repayment ability in accordance with normal lending practices. Interest rates, security requirements and the term of the loan up to a maximum of

five years will be determined between the lending institutions and the business.

Apply to

Application forms are available at participating chartered banks, credit unions, trust companies and Treasury Branches.

Contact

For more information on this program, call 422-5155 in Edmonton or 1-800-642-3815 in all other areas of Alberta.

Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation

The following programs are available under the authority of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Act. Premium costs are shared between the federal government, the provincial government and individual farmers, with the province paying all administration expenses.

All Risk Crop Insurance

Program Description

This program is designed to stabilize farm income by minimizing, at the individual level, the detrimental economic effects of crop losses due to natural hazards such as drought, hail, frost, snow and grasshoppers.

Eligibility

All farmer-operators are eligible. Coverage is not available to landlords. Within the limits set by the program, farmers can select the crops they wish to insure and the level of coverage they desire. Honey is defined as a crop under this program.

Assistance

Farmers may insure individual crops for 60, 70 or 80 per cent of either the average long-term yield in their district or their own yields as adjusted by their coverage index. If production falls below that level then the farmer is paid for the shortage at the predetermined price. The program also includes benefits to cover acres unseeded or unharvested because of weather conditions. There is also a special hail endorsement to cover "spot losses".

Compensation for Wildlife Damage to Crops

Program Description

The purpose of this program is to compensate individuals whose crops are damaged by wildlife (big game and game birds as defined under the Wildlife Act). Compensation for waterfowl dam-

age is shared equally by the governments of Canada and Alberta. Compensation for damage from other wildlife is covered completely by the government of Alberta.

Eligibility

Each claim is subject to a \$25 appraisal fee which is refunded if a valid claim results. A claim will not be processed if the damaged area of the crop is harvested, if the crop damage is less than ten per cent, or if the compensation payable is less than \$100.

No compensation is paid on grazing lands or for crops that are baled, stacked in granaries or bins.

Notice of damage will not be accepted if received more than 15 days after harvesting is completed in the area or before December 31 of the crop damage year.

Compensation is based on an assessment of damage as determined by an adjuster for the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation. Compensation rates are determined annually by the federal and provincial governments in accordance with current levels of crop insurance and crop values.

Forage Insurance

Program Description

This program protects against losses to hay and pasture crops caused by natural hazards such as drought, hail, wind, frost, insects and disease.

Eligibility

Native and improved pasture, and improved hay acreage are eligible. Minimum acreage requirements are 20 acres for pasture contracts and 20 acres for hay contracts.

Assistance

Coverage levels for hay and pasture are at 70 per cent of the district average long-term yield, with a range of price options available for both hay and pasture (irrigated hay can be insured at

80 per cent). Coverage levels for hay will be indexed starting in 1991 to reflect individual production levels. In 1991, settlements for hay will be based on individual production measurements, while hay settlements will be based on the average production in the nearest 25 townships.

Revenue Protection

Program Description

This program will stabilize a farmer's income by providing a target revenue at the individual level. This target revenue is based on average yields for the farmer and a support price that is 70 per cent of a 15 year moving average price series indexed to current year dollar values.

Eligibility

Farm operators growing eligible crops may participate. Landlords are not insurable. Cereals, oilseeds and most pulse crops are eligible. All eligible crops must be included in the contract.

Assistance

The target revenue is 70 per cent times the indexed moving average price times the average yield. Indemnity is target revenue less market revenue. Market revenue includes the value of production at the average price of the designated grade of the crop plus any crop insurance benefits. When crop insurance is not carried, a deduction will be made as if it was carried. When crop insurance is carried in conjunction with revenue protection, it is available only at the 70 per cent level of coverage.

Contact

Your local Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation district office
or

Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation
Bag Service 16
Lacombe, Alberta
T0C 1S0
Phone: 782-4661

Alberta Public Safety Service

Emergency Planning and Response Program

Program Description

The Emergency Planning and Response Program provides for the development and coordination of an overall provincial program of preparedness for response to emergencies and disasters. The program has several sub-programs operated under the various branches of the Disaster Services Division.

Disaster Assistance Branch

The Alberta Disaster Assistance Program responds to extraordinary emergency operations and resulting restoration expenditures, and other financial burdens of loss and damage caused by a disastrous event.

Guidelines considered in assessing the need for assistance include:

- the losses and damages have been so devastating as to threaten the economic survival of an individual or business
- assistance would be in the public interest
- an unusual amount of non-insurable loss and damage has affected a number of people in a municipality
- events causing damage or loss were extremely unusual as classified by a competent authority
- the health, safety or welfare of the affected citizen have been at risk
- persons directly affected and/or municipal authorities acted prudently and appropriately to protect property and minimize damage when, and if, warning was given.

The program is intended to respond to communities, industries or individuals who may have to deal with a genuine emergency or the affects of a disastrous event which could not be prevented or reasonably insured against. Payments for damage to public property are conditional upon the municipality undertaking to restore the damaged property to its pre-disaster condition.

There is no statutory entitlement to disaster assistance and the program is not designed to provide total compensation for all loss and damage. The program is designed to provide some assistance to aid the recovery from a devastating occurrence.

As this program shares recovery cost amongst all Albertans, there are control features to ensure that assistance is provided on a fair and equitable basis, and where warranted. This is achieved by on-site inspection and appraisal of all reported loss and damage, and a subsequent review of the circumstances by the inter-department Disaster Assistance Committee. An information package is also provided to all applicants to explain how the program works, and the luxury items, recreational equipment and property, and insurables are specifically excluded for assistance.

Contact

Director, Disaster Assistance Branch
Alberta Public Safety Services
10320 - 146 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 3A2
Phone: 422-9000

24 HOUR EMERGENCY DUTY CENTRE/COM-
PLIANCE INFORMATION CENTRE
1-800-272-9600 or 422-9600 (Edmonton area)

Alberta Transportation and Utilities

Alberta Rural Gas Program

Program Description

The Alberta Rural Gas Program was established to make natural gas service available at a reasonable cost to farmers and other rural residents. Under the program, each participating gas distributor is granted a franchise for a specific area of the province. Grants are provided to distributors on behalf of their customers to reduce the cost of the main pipeline distribution system and keep individual services to a reasonable cost. The benefits of grant support are passed on by the distributors to their customers and result in lower fuel costs. All new customers who can be economically serviced are able to obtain a service at a fixed capital cost regardless of their distance from the existing distribution system.

Contact

Your local rural gas distributor
or
Alberta Transportation and Utilities
Twin Atria Building
3rd Floor, 4999 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6B 2X3
Phone: 427-0125

Rural Electrification Financial Assistance

Program Description

The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to farmers for the cost of constructing new overhead and/or underground electrical services.

Eligibility

Loans are available to all farm customers served by Rural Electrification Associations or directly by an Electric Power Company. All farmers are eligible for financial assistance if they can demon-

strate they have met previous financial obligations on time and are low credit risks.

Assistance

Low interest loans are available for the farmer's share of a new electrical service. Loans are repayable over 10 to 25 years. These loans are secured by a lien note.

Costs not assigned directly to the farmer are financed by recoverable grants.

Loans and advances are limited to a maximum of \$25,000 per service.

For large capacity single and three-phase services, loans and advances are limited to a maximum of \$50,000 per farm entity.

Contact

Alberta Transportation and Utilities
Rural Electric Services
Twin Atria Building
4999 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6B 2X3
Phone: 427-8444

Alberta Treasury

Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance (AFFDA)

Program Description

The AFFDA program is designed to assist Alberta farmers by reducing farm fuel expenses.

Eligibility

In order to apply for the AFFDA benefit, a Declaration of Alberta Farmer must be completed and submitted to Alberta Treasury at the address identified below. Declaration forms are available from bulk fuel dealers or Alberta Treasury.

To qualify for farm fuel benefits, the value of gross farm revenue must exceed \$10,000. Farmers whose gross farm revenues fall between \$5,000 and \$10,000, but who have no other significant source of revenue, or whose other income sources consist of old age security and supplements and Canada Pension Plan payments, may also qualify.

Farm revenue is defined as the value of farm production, plus revenue from custom farming, regardless of whether the farm products are sold, retained in inventory (such as grain not sold due to restricted quota or calves added to a herd), or used by the farm family (such as hay produced and fed to cattle or steers slaughtered for food).

To allow for revenue variations or for those who are just starting up farm operations, an estimate of the average expected revenue over the next three years may be used.

Where eligibility is questionable, a review panel composed of representatives of Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Treasury will review the case.

Assistance

Eligible farmers receive an AFFDA identification number which enables them to purchase marked gasoline or diesel fuel at a reduced cost at their bulk fuel dealer's location.

Effective April 8, 1991, the AFFDA benefit on sales of marked diesel fuel is \$0.10 per litre. The AFFDA benefit on sales of marked gasoline is \$0.04 per litre. Eligible farmers are also exempt from the \$0.09 per litre provincial fuel tax.

On November 1, 1991, the AFFDA benefit on sales of both marked diesel and gasoline will be reduced by \$0.02 per litre, to \$0.08 per litre and \$0.02 per litre respectively.

Approved Uses of Marked Fuel

Alberta farm fuel benefits are restricted to farmers for farm-related activities. Eligibility for farm fuel benefits is clearly specified in legislation and regulations. Only certain farm-related activities qualify as legitimate uses of farm fuel. They include:

- agriculture production
- transport of material produced or consumed on the farm
- farm-related use of a farm truck by the farmer and dependents
- custom work on farm land.

If you are unsure about whether a certain activity is eligible, call the Alberta Treasury information line for clarification.

Contact

Alberta Treasury
Revenue Administration
6th Floor, Haultain Building
9811 - 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 0C8
Phone: 427-3044 or 1-800-262-9069 (Alberta Toll Free)

Alberta Regional Information Telephone Enquiry (RITE)

For Alberta citizens the Regional Information Telephone Enquiry (RITE) system provides a means to eliminate the delays and frustrations experienced by not being able to contact the right department or individual in government, the costs of long distance calls and the need to enter into an exchange of correspondence.

Eligibility

Any Alberta resident who needs to access government agencies or personnel.

Assistance

Individuals who wish to contact a government office or individual may avoid long distance

charges by placing the call through their local RITE operator. If an individual does not know which department he or she should contact, RITE operators will help them contact the correct department and where possible the correct individual within that department to answer their questions.

Contact

Look for the RITE number under Government of Alberta listing in local telephone directories.

Agriculture Canada

Advance Payments for Crops Act

Program Description

The Advance Payments for Crops Act facilitates advance payments for crops.

Eligibility

Canadian producer organizations.

Program applies to all storable crops grown in Canada, except wheat and barley grown in the area covered by the Canadian Wheat Board.

Assistance

The legislation provides eligible producer groups with guaranteed loans with banks to make advance payment to their members who produce storable crops. The rates for loans will be negotiated by different commodity organizations and will vary according to the commodity involved up to a maximum of the prime rate of the lending institution.

The program also guarantees repayment of 98 per cent of the amount a producer organization borrows from a bank.

Contact

Agri-Food Development Branch
Agriculture Canada
Suite 810
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G5
Phone: 495-4141

Agricultural Products Board

Product Description

The Agricultural Products Board is empowered to buy, sell, or import agricultural products; to store, transport, and process such products; to

sell agricultural products to any country and to make arrangements for the purchase and delivery; or to purchase agricultural products on behalf of any government or agency.

The Board is able to sell products at prices lower than the purchase price thereof, plus handling, storage, and transportation costs, when specifically authorized.

Programs are generally undertaken in support of market stabilization of agricultural commodities and are also undertaken to resolve specific marketing concerns when necessary.

Contact

Agricultural Products Board
930 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5
Phone: (613) 995-5880

Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act

Program Description

The Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act is a market development program designed to assist and encourage co-operative marketing of agricultural products.

Eligibility

To be eligible an organization must be a co-operative association of producers, processors or selling agencies which has the support of the primary producers and markets the agricultural product under an eligible co-operative plan.

Most agricultural products are covered under the Act, including field, root and horticultural crops, livestock, poultry, and milk products, and special crops and grain crops except for wheat grown in the area defined in the Canadian Wheat Board Act.

Assistance

The Act, which became law in 1939, provides the authority for the Minister of Agriculture to enter into an agreement with a co-operative association, processor or selling agent (an organization which markets an agricultural product). This agreement guarantees to the organization an initial payment to producers, and eligible processing, carrying and selling costs to a fixed maximum. This enables the organization to source products more efficiently, and market the products in a more orderly and systematic fashion throughout the season. In addition, the organization's financial obligations can be arranged to implement their marketing program. At the end of the agreement, if the actual average price is less than the initial payment plus the eligible costs, the government makes payment for the difference to the organization. Initial payment means the sum paid or credited for merchandise delivered, or money advanced to primary producers of an agricultural product to be marketed under a cooperative plan or agreement.

Contact

Legislated Marketing Programs Division
Farm Financial Programs Directorate
Policy Branch
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5
Phone: (613) 995-5880
or
Agri-Food Development Branch
Agriculture Canada
Suite 810
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G5
Phone: 495-4141

Agricultural Products Marketing Act (APMA)

Program Description

The Agricultural Products Marketing Act (APMA) promotes the marketing of agricultural products in inter-provincial and export trade.

The Act extends federal powers to provincial marketing boards in two areas:

Inter-provincial and export trade – when provincial marketing boards arrange the trade of their commodity across provincial boundaries

and to other countries, it is necessary to receive an inter-provincial and export delegation of authority from the federal government. This delegation of authority gives, at the federal level, any or all powers which provincial legislation permits with regard to inter-provincial trade. The board can thus obtain for its producers the same benefits for inter-provincial and export trade as it does for intra-provincial trade.

Levy – provincial marketing boards can receive authority from the federal government to collect levies. These levies are applied to commodities moving inter-provincially or exported.

Contact

Agri-Food Development Branch
Agriculture Canada
Suite 810
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G5
Phone: 495-4141

Agriculture Industry Market Strategies (AIMS)

Program Description

This is a new program designed to focus government priority setting by encouraging agri-food associations to develop strategies that respond to market opportunities. AIMS strives to help agri-food associations focus upon where they want to be and how they might get there.

Industry associations and government collaborate in order to focus government support for the industry's market development activities.

Marketing strategies are developed that define market opportunities and formulate plans to enhance production and marketing. Based on these plans, goals are set to guide and assess production and marketing development.

The program is open to all agri-food associations and organizations.

Contact

Elwood Hodgins
International Programs Branch
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
Phone: (613) 993-6671
or

Agri-Food Development Branch
Agriculture Canada
Suite 810
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G6
Phone: 495-4141

Animal Disease Eradication

Program Description

Agriculture Canada has programs to control and/or eradicate certain diseases. Under these programs compensation is paid to herd owners for animals ordered destroyed or slaughtered to control disease. Specific programs exist for anthrax, tuberculosis/brucellosis and newcastle disease in poultry.

Eligibility

Owners of animals slaughtered for disease control purposes.

Assistance

Compensation generally corresponds to the market value of the animals, but there are maximum amounts applicable to cattle, horses, sheep and elk destroyed under any particular area or herd disease program.

Domestic disease control programs help to keep Canadian livestock and poultry free from serious contagious and infectious diseases, including animal diseases which can affect people, such as rabies. Some diseases like brucellosis have been eradicated from Canada. A high priority is to maintain the capability to quickly eradicate serious exotic diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, should they accidentally gain entry into Canada.

NOTE: The Animal Disease and Protection Regulations contain information on the compensation that may be paid to owners of animals slaughtered for disease control purposes.

Contact

Your nearest Agriculture Canada regional office

Biosystematics Research Centre

Product Description

The Biosystematics Research Centre (BRC) conducts research on the classification of insects, mites, spiders, nematodes, vascular plants, fungi and non-medical bacteria. The Centre provides, free of charge, an identification service that is widely used by other government agencies, both federal and provincial, by universities, and by individuals.

The Centre provides research and taxonomic services on organisms important in production support and resource protection for two major Canadian industries, agriculture and forestry.

Identification and taxonomic services are a direct extension of BRC's collection development and research activities. In response to the ongoing requirements for accurate biosystematic information on these organisms, BRC scientists and technicians identify about 100,000 submitted specimens, collections and cultures annually. Incoming material from Canadian clients is checked for condition and adequate documentation, and when accepted is assigned a priority and processed, usually in accordance with deadlines requested by clients. Important material from foreign sources is also handled on a discretionary basis when an alternative service is not available.

Contact

Biosystematics Research Centre
Research Branch
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C6
Phone: (613) 996-1665

Canada Agricultural Products Act

Program Description

Agriculture Canada has the mandate to ensure that Agricultural Products imported, exported, moved under federal standards or leaving federally registered establishments are safe, wholesome, inspected and graded for economically significant factors and packaged, labelled and traded to avoid fraud. The authority is provided in the CAP Act and Regulations developed under the Act.

The Act establishes national standards for agricultural products and regulates international and inter-provincial trade. Through a formal agreement signed in 1970 and updated in 1985, Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada (CCAC) is responsible for administration of the Act at the retail level of trade while Agriculture Canada is responsible at other levels.

Agriculture Canada is responsible for regulation development and amendment. CCAC is responsible for advising on and recommending consumer-oriented revisions, including the development of new regulations judged to be in the interests of consumers.

On reasonable grounds, inspectors may enter premises of a dealer, open and examine packages, take samples, examine and make copies of records and seize agricultural products by means of or in relation to which there is believed to be a violation.

Fines up to \$2,000 and/or one year imprisonment are provided for, depending on the infraction and manner of proceeding.

NOTE: All provinces have agricultural legislation which establishes product grades and conditions for sale applicable to inter-provincial trade. Except for those provinces having provincial inspectors (Ontario and Quebec), the CCAC inspectors at the retail trade level make observations in relation to the provincial requirements, take enforcement actions in those cases where gazetted to do so, and refer chronic problems to provincial authorities in those instances where prosecution is required.

Contact

Alberta Regional Office
Agriculture Canada
Food Inspection
815, Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G4
Phone 495-2800

or

North District Office
Food Production and Inspection Branch
Agriculture Canada
11713 - 82 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 2V9
Phone: 495-3339

or

South District Office
Food Production and Inspection Branch
Agriculture Canada
3650 - 36 Street NW
Calgary, Alberta
T2N 4M6
Phone: 289-7736

Canada Plan Service

Program Description

The Canada Plan Service provides plans for farm buildings and systems, and is administered by the Research branch, CPS Design Centre, Engineering and Statistical Research Institute Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

The federal/provincial Canada Plan Service organization prepares construction plans, descriptive leaflets, and information bulletins. They show how to build modern farm buildings, livestock housing systems, storage structures, and farmstead equipment for Canadian agriculture.

Leaflets describing the plans, and the plans themselves, are available only through provincial departments of agriculture.

Contact

Your local district office of Alberta Agriculture

Canadian Agri-Food Development Initiative (CAFDI)

Program Description

The Canadian Agri-Food Market Development Initiative (CAFDI) is a contribution program administered by Agriculture Canada. CAFDI supports economic development in the Canadian agri-food industry by providing cost-shared financial assistance on a project basis. Projects should address the three main areas of:

- Market Development
- Production and Processing Development
- Human Resource Development

Market Development - The objectives of the market development component are to assist the industry in identifying new domestic and export markets, develop marketing systems, support product diversification and increase the value added to products. It should be noted that

assistance for domestic promotion and advertising are not usually supported.

Production and Processing Development – The purpose of this component of the CAFDI is to assist with projects that evaluate: the commercial potential and encourage the adoption of new crops or varieties for a region; technologies and/or production practices for crops, livestock and poultry; and more efficient equipment, machinery, processes and systems. Projects must be beyond the research stage.

Human Resource Development – human resource development projects may receive assistance if they enhance the human resource base of the agri-food sector through skill development, rural leadership training and awareness of agri-food sector issues.

Eligibility

Non-profit and commercial organizations, including: associations, corporations, co-operatives, marketing boards, partnerships, sole proprietorships, universities, industry, provincial and territorial governments, crown corporations and government agencies may apply. Preference is given to producer organizations that represent a broad sector of the industry.

Assistance

Support may be provided to a maximum of 50 per cent of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$250,000 a year or \$750,000 over the project duration. Maximum government assistance may not exceed 50 per cent from all federal sources nor 75 per cent from all government sources combined.

Assistance is for, but not limited to, eligible costs for:

- contracted goods and services
- materials and supplies
- incremental labour and related costs
- rent or lease of facilities or equipment
- administration.

Ineligible costs include

- normal costs of establishing and operating a commercial operation
- capital costs (such as equipment and buildings)
- funding for ongoing activities
- costs incurred before project approval.

Contact

Agri-Food Development Branch
Agriculture Canada
Suite 810
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G5
Phone: 495-4141

Canadian Rural Transition Program

Program Description

The program assists farm families in the adjustment to alternative employment. The program is targeted to those farm families who have lost, or are about to lose, their farm business due to financial failure.

Eligibility

Any individual, family or group which is or has been operating a farm as part of a commercial business is eligible for a transition grant or supplementary transition grant, provided that the applicant:

- has discontinued farming since January 1, 1985 or is about to do so for financial reasons such as foreclosure, seizure of assets or inability to obtain credit to maintain a viable operation;
- is legally entitled to work in Canada;
- has no permanent full-time (more than 24 hours) work and is not in receipt of unemployment benefits or social assistance;
- is actively seeking employment.

Applicants who are in receipt of social assistance but who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria, as well as members of the immediate family of such applicants, are eligible for a self-employment grant, training allowances, contribution towards the purchase of training, relocation and exploratory assistance, personal, career, legal and financial counselling.

Assistance

Ten types of assistance are available to participants:

- transition grant of \$2,000 plus \$112 for the first dependent and \$56 for each subsequent dependent for farm families during the first four weeks of transition following the approval of the application.

- supplementary transition grant for up to 22 weeks at \$140/week for a person with no dependents, plus \$28/week for the first dependent and \$14/week for each additional dependent.
- self-employment grants for those wishing to establish a new non-farm business. A maximum grant of \$200/week, for up to 52 weeks, may be paid to up to 10 individuals for each new business established.
- financial assistance for job and related personal counselling to a maximum of \$1,000 per client, to prepare participants for entering the labour market and adjusting to the loss of the farm business.
- reimbursement of legal and financial counselling necessary to wind-down a farm operation or establish a new non-farm business of the \$4,000 maximum available per farm family, a maximum of \$1,000 may be 100 per cent federal funding, the remaining \$3,000 is 50 per cent federal funding.
- purchase of training courses and purchase or rental of training related materials to reimburse applicant for the actual cost of direct payment to a maximum of \$26,000.
- travel and relocation assistance for the farm family member starting or looking for a new job.
- special travel assistance for the farm family member who has to travel to another area to receive services not available locally.

The final date for receipt of application is March 31, 1992.

Contact

Canada Employment and Immigration Commission Offices
or
Special Programs Division
Agriculture Development Branch
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5
Phone: (613)995-9554

Fairs and Exhibitions Program

Program Description

Agriculture Canada supports the fairs industry in Canada with a \$2.5 million budget assisting on projects which satisfy one of the following objectives:

Market development – These projects should assist producers and agri-businesses in finding and/or creating a market or increasing the existing market for an existing or new product(s).

Introduction of new technology/education – These projects should make agriculture producers aware of new technology and/or more efficient producers of quality products and therefore make them more competitive. Projects could include seminars, demonstrations and workshops.

Training and development of rural people – These projects should improve the skills and/or abilities of rural people in areas relating to agriculture. Projects could involve leadership training, development of management skills such as computer record keeping and financial planning, and technical skills such as AI techniques.

Agriculture awareness – These projects should increase consumers' awareness of what is involved in the production of agricultural products. These types of projects should result in consumers having a better appreciation of producer needs.

Eligibility

To ensure that the fair organization is a legal body with the primary propose of improving agriculture, the following basic requirements must be met:

- Your association must be an agricultural organization duly constituted under appropriate legislation in Canada or the province in which it is located.
- Your constitution and by-laws must contain clauses that determine the organization has:
 - non-profit status
 - the improvement of agriculture and of rural life as a significant part of its stated purpose.
- Your association must provide proper financial statements each year.
- Your association must have been in existence and operational for a minimum of three consecutive years before being eligible for financial assistance under this program.
- Your association must conduct at least one annual agricultural project for juniors.

Contact

Agriculture Development Branch
Agriculture Canada
Suite 810
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G5
Phone: 495-4141 Fax: 495-3324

Farm Debt Review Act

Program Description

The Farm Debt Review Act proclaimed on August 5, 1986, ensures that farm operations in financial difficulty, or actually facing a farm foreclosure situation, have access to an impartial third-party review of individual farm circumstances and possible financing/re-financing options. A voluntary agreement between a farmer and his or her creditor(s) for mutually satisfactory arrangements will be sought.

The legislation provides for:

- a review process for farmers who are insolvent, and for those who are in financial difficulty but who are not yet insolvent.
- a stay of proceedings by creditors while the review of the affairs of an insolvent farmer is being carried out. Farmers who are in financial difficulty but not insolvent may also apply to the Board for a review of their financial affairs or assistance in reaching an arrangement with creditors. These cases will not involve a stay of proceedings.
- creditors to give farmers 15 business days notice of an action being taken against them.

The overall responsibility for the administration of the Act rests with the Farm Debt Review Boards (FDRB) that have been appointed in each province. The Boards work with farmers and creditors to help them reach mutually agreeable financial arrangements.

There are two types of applications: for an insolvent farmer, and for a farmer in financial difficulty. Priority will be given to applications from insolvent farmers.

Contact

Farmers may obtain application forms from Agriculture Development offices of Agriculture Canada and local FCC offices. Completed applications should be forwarded to the attention of the Board.

Chairperson

Farm Debt Review Board
Suite 805, 9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Phone: 495-4764

Farm Improvement and Marketing Co-operative Loans Act

Program Description

The Farm Improvement and Marketing Co-operative Loans Act (FIMCLA) is designed to increase the availability of credit to farming operations and farmer-owned marketing cooperatives, to improve farm assets, and strengthen production and financial stability. The Act is made up of two parts - Farm Improvement Loans and Farm Marketing Co-operative Loans.

Farm Improvement Loans

Eligibility

Individuals, partnerships, corporations or co-operative associations actively engaged in farming and operating the farm as a business with the intent of making a profit are eligible to apply.

Assistance

Farm Improvement Loans may be made for:

- the purchase or installation of agricultural tools, implements and machinery of any kind
- the improvement, major repair or overhaul of agricultural implements, tools, equipment and machinery, when such costs are more than \$2,000
- the purchase, repair, addition or alteration of farm buildings or structures, roads and drive-ways
- the purchase of additional land for farming and related costs such as land transfer taxes, surveys, appraisals and legal costs
- the purchase, movement to and installing of complete or partially complete structures
- the purchase of livestock including poultry, bee stock and fur-bearing animals
- the purchase and planting of maple trees for maple syrup production, fruit trees, Christmas trees and ginseng, where the costs exceed \$2,000
- other farm improvement and development projects including fencing, drainage, irrigation,

soil conservation, and breaking and clearing of land

- the refinancing or consolidation of loans made for any of the above purposes.

Farm Improvement Loans may not be made for improvements to the family dwelling, quota purchases of all kinds, short-term operating loans and loans for the purchase of short-term feeder livestock.

A farmer may have one or more loans at any one time to a maximum combined amount of \$250,000. Loans are based on up to 80 per cent of the value of the asset purchased. The maximum term over which a farmer may repay a loan is 15 years when the loan is to purchase additional land, and 10 years when the loan is for any other purpose. Repayment of loans may be made by instalments that are payable at least annually.

Contact

any chartered bank, Treasury Branch, Credit Union, trust, loan or insurance company designated in and approved under provisions of the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

Farm Marketing Co-operative Loans

Program Description

Farm Marketing Co-operative Loans are available to help improve farm income by encouraging value-added projects that result in increased financial returns to farmers through the processing of raw farm products that can be marketed over a longer period of time.

Eligibility

Farm marketing co-operatives incorporated under the laws of Canada or of a province for the purpose of processing, distributing or marketing farm products on a cooperative basis. Each member or shareholder must, as an individual, be eligible for a Farm Improvement Loan.

Assistance

Farm Marketing Co-operative Loans must be made for:

- the purchase of land
- the purchase or construction of any building or structure
- the repair or alteration of, or making an addition to, any building or structure

- the purchase or repair of machinery or apparatus
- the consolidation or refinancing of the debts of the cooperative incurred for loan purposes described above.

A farmer-owned co-operative may have one or more loans at any one time to a maximum combined amount of \$3 million. Loans are based on up to 80 per cent of the value of the asset purchased. All loans exceeding \$250,000 must receive prior written approval of the Minister of Agriculture.

The maximum term over which a farm cooperative may repay its loan is 20 years for the purchase of land, or the purchase or construction of any farm building or structure, and 10 years for all other eligible purchases. Repayment of loans may be made by instalments that are payable at least annually.

To Apply

All chartered banks and Alberta Treasury Branches are authorized to make loans under provisions of the FIMCLA. Loans may also be obtained from credit unions, caisses populaires or other co-operative societies, trust companies, loan companies and insurance companies that have been designated as lenders under the Act by Agriculture Canada.

Contact

Obtain additional information from Agriculture Canada regional offices or from: Agri-Food Development Branch
Suite 810
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G5
Phone: 495-4141

Farm Women's Advancement Program

Program Description

The object of the program is to encourage the agricultural industry to make full and fair use of its human resources by integrating farm women equitably in farm operations and industry decision-making.

Eligibility

Canadian farm women's organizations on a local, provincial and national level.

Assistance

Assistance of up to \$50,000 is available to any one eligible applicant for projects related to selected information, educational, participatory, promotional and organizational activities.

Contact

Co-ordinator
Farm Women's Bureau
Policy Branch
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5
Phone: (613) 995-5880

Feeds Act

Program Description

The objective of the act is to monitor and control all livestock feed used in Canada to ensure that it is safe, wholesome and properly labelled so that consumer and livestock producers are protected against health hazards from residues and contaminants in livestock products and fraud in marketing.

Livestock feed is monitored for the presence of avoidable residues and unavoidable contaminants. Feed additive, nutritional, packaging and labelling standards are established and products evaluated for conformity to these standards. Livestock producer complaints are investigated concerning safety or economic losses directly derived from feeds, it is also part of a program whereby residues in consumer products are traceable.

Contact

Plant Health
Agriculture Canada
815, Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C3
Phone: 495-2157
or
Associate Director
Feed and Fertilizer Division
Plant Health and Plant Products Directorate
Agriculture Canada
1101 K.W. Neatby Building
960 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C6
Phone: (613) 995-7900

Fertilizer Act

Program Description

The Act was established for the regulation and control of agricultural fertilizers and supplements.

Enforcement of Act and Regulations is the responsibility of Agriculture Canada. Under a memorandum of understanding, CCAC is responsible for enforcing quantity provisions of this legislation

On reasonable grounds, inspectors may enter premises of a dealer, open and examine packages, take samples, examine and make copies of records, seize and detain articles believed to be in violation of the Act.

Fines up to \$2,000 and/or one year imprisonment and provided for, depending on the infraction and manner of proceedings.

Agriculture Canada officers carry out inspection and sampling of products subject to the Act and Regulations and take enforcement action when deficiencies are found.

Contact

Plant Health
Agriculture Canada
Suite 815, 9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C3
Phone: 495-2157
or
Charles D. Crober, Associate Director
Feed and Fertilizer Division
Plant Health and Plant Products Directorate
Agriculture Canada
1101 K. W. Neatby Building
960 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C6
Phone: (613) 995-7900

Food Production and Inspection Branch

Product Description

Agriculture Canada provides an inspection and monitoring service covering a diverse range of products and processes.

Plant Health Programs

Seed Potatoes – Agriculture Canada carries out compulsory inspection in the field, at harvest and during grading and shipping, conducts extensive post-harvest testing, and oversees the quarantine of potato pests and diseases.

Seed – The Department ensures that imported and domestic seed marketed in Canada pursuant to the Seeds Act and Regulations is safe, pure, viable, efficacious, accurately represented to maintain identity and avoid fraud and certified to meet the requirements of importing countries. Staff also inspect pedigreed seed crops in the field to preserve varietal purity, and grade, tag and seal the progeny.

Feeds – The Department helps assure the nutritional value and safety of all animal feeds. It monitors all feeds manufactured, sold and imported into the country; gives special attention to the safety of medicated feeds; investigates residues found in meats which may be related to feed; and inspects feed manufacturing establishments.

Fertilizers – Safe and effective fertilizers are vital to Canadian producers. The Department monitors all fertilizers manufactured, sold or imported into Canada; conducts regular sample inspections to ensure that the contents live up to the claims on the label; monitors legume inoculates and investigates complaints related to fertilizers, soil conditioners and soil supplements.

Pesticides – Without proper controls, pests could seriously damage Canadian agriculture. To ensure the safety and effectiveness of pesticides used on the farm, the Department carries out special surveys on pesticide user groups, e.g. aerial applicators; checks pesticides for safety and effectiveness through laboratory analysis of samples; carries out investigations to ensure that pesticides perform as advertised; liaisons with provincial and other regulatory agencies. Agriculture Canada provides a toll-free service for information on pesticides. The National Pesticides Call Line can be reached at 1-800-267-6315.

Plant Protection – To prevent introduction and spread within Canada of foreign pests of agricultural and forestry crops, the Department inspects import consignments of plants, plant products and related material; it conducts surveys to detect the presence of plant pests and monitors their spread; it controls and eradicates significant plant pests. The Department also certifies plants and plant products for domestic and export trade.

Food Inspection Programs

Dairy – The Department assures the highest quality products through

- registration and inspection of dairy product plants to ensure sanitation standards are met
- monitoring of imported and domestic dairy products
- inspection of marking, packaging, weights and composition
- monitoring the application of federal grades on butter and cheese.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables – The Department promotes wider consumption and ensures the quality of fresh fruit and vegetables. In doing so, the directorate inspects fresh products that are imported, exported or traded inter-provincially; monitors labelling and standardization of packaging to ensure efficient trade; operates a license system and a Board of Arbitration to settle disputes between dealers and brokers to ensure the fair and orderly trading of fresh produce.

Eggs and Egg Products – To ensure the quality of eggs and egg products, the Department monitors the sanitation of egg grading stations and processed egg plants; conducts environmental sampling of plant air quality, equipment, premises and sanitation; monitors grading, packaging and labelling; and inspects imported, exported and domestic products.

Processed Fruit and Vegetables – Agriculture Canada administers and applies grades and quality standards for processed fruit and vegetables, honey and maple products to protect the interest of Canadian producers, handlers and consumers of processed products. To achieve these goals, the Department:

- inspects processed products that are exported, imported or traded inter-provincially
- registers all fruit and vegetable processing plants, honey and maple processing establishments, honey producer-graders and maple sugar bushes that ship product internationally and/or provincially
- inspects all registered plants and producers for sanitation and compliance with regulations.

Livestock – The Department's grading system for beef, veal, sheep and hogs has encouraged the production of top quality Canadian meats. The grade standards applied have directly increased the profitability of the Canadian livestock industry by encouraging leaner carcasses that yield more. Grading has helped set fair prices and pro-

vides for an orderly marketing system for producers and buyers.

Contact

Alberta Regional Office
Agriculture Canada
Food Production and Inspection Branch
815, Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C3

Phone:

Food Inspection: 495-2800

or

North District Office
Food Production and Inspection Branch
Agriculture Canada
11713 - 82 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 2V9

Phone: 495-5590

or

Calgary Regional Office
Food Production and Inspection Branch
Agriculture Canada
3650 - 36 Street NW
Calgary, Alberta
T2N 4M6
Phone: 289-7736

Health of Animals Act

Program Description

Regulations are intended to prevent the entry of serious livestock diseases by controlling the importation of livestock and livestock products; to control and eradicate livestock diseases (some of which are transmissible to humans) that are present in Canada; and to prescribe the qualifications for certification of livestock for export. Regulations affect manufacturers of veterinary biological products, auction markets and auctioneers, interprovincial motor or air carriers of animals.

Regulations also control the transportation of livestock into, out of, and within Canada for the purpose of ensuring they are transported humanely.

Contact

Alberta Regional Office
Agriculture Canada
Animal Health Programs
751, 220 - 4 Avenue SE
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 4X3 Phone: 292-4328

Information – Agriculture Canada

Program Description

Agriculture Canada carries out a broad public affairs program to inform Canadians about the policies, programs, research findings and activities of the Department.

News Media and Public Services/Publications

The Communications Branch disseminates information through its news media services section (press, radio, television and films), through its agricultural enquiries section, which answers individual requests for technical information, and through publications covering a wide range of agricultural topics.

Market Reports

The federal government issues reports daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually on marketings of livestock, dairy products, eggs and other poultry products, fruits and vegetables, maple products, and honey. The figures, which are gathered from the principal centres of Canada, cover receipts at market, unloadings, and related matters.

Contact

Your nearest regional office of Agriculture Canada

or

Agriculture Canada
Communications Branch
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C7

Phone: (613) 995-8963

Land Resource Research Centre

Program Description

The role of the Land Resource Research Centre is to assist the agricultural sector in achieving environmental sustainability by developing land resource data bases; providing interpretation of land use suitability, degradation potential and production risks; developing an understanding of the relationships between soil processes, agricultural production and the environment; and evaluating agricultural soil quality in Canada.

The Centre publishes data interpretations, monitoring and research results which inform the public, and policymakers about the state of the agricultural climate and soil resources in Canada and the impacts of agricultural practices on the environment.

Soil inventory work is carried out in each Province in collaboration with the respective Provincial Government. Maps, soils reports, and other National Soil Data Base information is available.

Contact

Director's Office
Land Resource Research Centre
Research Branch
Agriculture Canada
960 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5
Phone: (613) 995-5011
Fax: (613) 995-7283
or
Alberta Soil Survey Unit
653 Terrace Plaza Tower
4445 Calgary Trail South
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5R7
Phone: 495-4243
Fax: 438-3882

Livestock Development – Record of Performance Program

Dairy Cattle Improvement

This activity is coordinated by Agriculture Canada through the Canadian Milk Recording Board. This Board represents all official milk recording organizations in Canada. Some 19,000 dairy producers with 830,000 cows are enrolled on either the ROP program, or producer or provincial milk recording programs. These programs provide information to herd owners for making herd replacement selection decisions based on analysis of economically important heritable traits.

This service is available in Alberta from:
Alberta Dairy Herd Improvement Services
14904 - 101A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5V 1A3
(403) 453-5642

Beef Cattle Improvement

This activity is coordinated by Agriculture Canada through the Record of Performance Program for Beef Cattle Improvement. This program provides herd management and genetic evaluation information to 2,000 enrolled beef producers for purposes of making herd replacement selection decisions based on analysis of economically important heritable traits. The program operates on microcomputers located across Canada in provincial government or producer association offices. Data is fed to the national database in Ottawa for annual reporting and subsequent genetic evaluations.

This service is available free of charge.

Swine Improvement

This activity is coordinated by Agriculture Canada through the Record of Performance program for Swine Improvement. This program provides herd management, sow productivity and genetic evaluation information to 1,000 enrolled swine producers for purposes of making herd replacement selection decisions based on analysis of economically important heritable traits. The program operates on microcomputers located across Canada in provincial government or producer association offices. Data is fed to the national database in Ottawa for annual reporting and subsequent genetic evaluations.

This service is available at a nominal cost.

Sheep Improvement

This activity is coordinated by Agriculture Canada through the Record of Performance Program for Sheep Improvement. This program provides flock management and genetic evaluation information to 1,000 enrolled sheep producers for purposes of making replacement selection decisions based on analysis of economically important heritable traits. The program operates on microcomputers located across Canada in provincial government or producers association offices. Data is fed to the national database in Ottawa for annual reporting and subsequent genetic evaluations.

This service is available free of charge.

Livestock Development Market Information

Agriculture Canada collects and distributes nation-wide market information and intelligence on the movement of agricultural products through Canadian agricultural marketing channels. The information covers marketing of livestock and red meat, poultry and dairy products.

These commodity programs provide a broad range of detailed information such as market receipts, movement between markets and provinces, prices, supply and global trade with Canada's trading partners.

The information is distributed by commodity through weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual publications and is available in computer-readable form through a public database.

Contact

Animal Industry Division
Alberta Agriculture
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
Phone: 427-2727

Agriculture Development Branch
Agriculture Canada
Suite 810
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G5
Phone: 495-4141

Net Income Stabilization Account

Program Description

This program will help producers stabilize their farm income by providing an account that can be contributed to in good years and drawn from in bad ones. Each year producers can deposit two per cent of eligible sales in their NISA accounts. Maximum eligible net sales for a year is \$250,000. Producer contributions will be matched dollar for dollar by the federal and provincial governments through a combined deposit. In addition, farmers can deposit an additional 20 per cent of eligible sales without matching government deposits and unused contributions can be carried forward up to five years. Interest rates on producer contributions will be three per cent above market value. Interest rates on gov-

ernment matched contributions will be at market value.

For the 1990 tax year, the federal government will contribute to each producer account an amount equal to 3.5 per cent of their eligible net sales. This will be paid as a direct payment in 1991 when producers submit a deposit/withdrawal form. In the second year of the program, the combined federal provincial contribution to each producer account will be equal to 3 per cent of their eligible net sales. After that the government contribution will be 2 per cent shared equally by the federal and provincial governments.

Eligibility

Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds and specialty crops and farm feed grains.

Assistance

Payouts will be triggered when a farm's gross margin falls below the previous five-year average or when taxable income falls below \$10,000 plus the current matchable deposit.

For the 1990 tax year, the withdrawal trigger will be modified so producers can receive money from the account when they require it rather than through the program's existing mechanism.

Contact

Grains and Oilseeds Branch
Agriculture Canada
Toll-free 1-800-665-6472

Pest Control Products Act Program Description

This Act regulates products used for the control of pests and the organic functions of plants and animals.

On reasonable grounds, inspectors may enter premises of a dealer, open and examine packages, take samples, examine and make copies of records, seize and detain articles believed to be in violation of the Act.

Fines up to \$1,000 and/or one year imprisonment are provided for, depending on the infraction and manner of proceedings.

The act covers inspection at all trade levels, as well as consumer and trader education.

Contact

Plant Health
Suite 815
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C5
Phone: 495-2157

Pesticide Residue Compensation Act

Program Description

The purpose of the program is to provide compensation to farmers whose agricultural products are contaminated by unacceptable pesticide residues when the pesticide was used according to label directions.

Eligibility

Agricultural products whose sale would be contrary to the Food and Drug Act because of pesticide residues.

The pesticide must be registered under the Pest Control Products Act.

The pesticide must have been used in accordance with the label as registered under the Pest Control Act.

The Act required that the Minister must be satisfied that the pesticide residue is not due to the fault of the farmer or his agents.

Assistance

Products are inspected under the Food and Drug Act for the presence of pesticide residues.

Payments are made on the terms and conditions of the regulations.

Plant Quarantine Act

Program Description

The Plant Quarantine Act is the enabling legislation for all plant protection activities in Canada, and its objective is clearly to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and diseases of quarantine significance into and within Canada, and to ensure that plants and plant products exported from Canada meet the phytosanitary requirements of receiving foreign countries.

Contact

Plant Health
Suite 815, 9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C3
Phone: 495-2157

Research Branch

Program Description

Agriculture Canada's Research Branch maintains a network of 43 research establishments across Canada with a mission to promote the further development, stability and competitiveness of the agri-food sector so that it makes a maximum contribution to the national economy, while ensuring sustainability through judicious stewardship of soil and water resources.

Each of the research centres is specialized in terms of the commodities under study as well as in the training and capabilities of its scientific and technical staff. Collectively, they represent a comprehensive capability to address the technological needs of both the production and processing segments of the industry. These establishments are also closely linked with provincial agricultural operations, often sharing the same facilities, to ensure a smooth and rapid transfer of new technology. Many of the studies are also conducted jointly with university colleagues to bring the additional specialist expertise of Canada's top educational institutions to bear on significant agricultural food industry problems.

The Research Branch also maintains a particularly close partnership with industry which exercises considerable influence in problem identification and the selection of studies through representations by its various commodity organizations. Industry also plays a major steering role through its participation on Branch and Research Station Advisory Committees. And an increasing number of studies are collaborative with industry, involving not only joint funding but also joint use of specialized facilities and equipment.

The research results are communicated to industry using a variety of tools including conferences and workshops, trade and technical reports, media releases, field days and demonstrative projects.

Contact

Information on all Research Branch programs and activities can be obtained through direct contact with any of the Agriculture Canada research establishments located in Alberta: ie. Beaverlodge, Lacombe and Lethbridge Research Stations. Alternatively, contact may be made directly to:

Research Branch
Agriculture Canada
Sir John Carling Building
CEF, Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5
Phone: (613) 995-7084

Seeds Act

Program Description

This is an Act respecting the testing, inspection, quality and sale of seeds.

Any reasonable time and on reasonable grounds, inspectors may enter any place to examine and open packages of seed, take samples, examine and make copies of records and seize or detain seed believed to be in violation of the Act.

On summary conviction, violators are subject to a fine up to \$25,000 and/or one year imprisonment; on conviction on indictment, to a fine in the discretion of the court and/or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.

Agriculture Canada inspectors visit seed selling establishments to check labels, take samples, examine records and generally ensure that seed meets the prescribed standards.

Contact

Plant Health
Suite 815
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G5
Phone: 495-2157

Canada Employment and Immigration

Agriculture Employment Services (AES)/Local Agricultural Employment Boards (LAEB's)

Program Description

The objective of this program is to facilitate agricultural labour market adjustment through:

- the operation of local labour exchanges,
- human resource planning assistance to farmers, and
- effecting improvements in compensation and labour standards in the agriculture sector.

In Alberta 10 AES offices are operated by nine independent contractors funded by Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC). The AES offices work closely with Canada Employment Centres (CEC's) and are assisted by community based local agricultural employment boards acting in an advisory capacity.

Eligibility

These services are available to all agricultural sector employees and job seekers.

Contact

Your nearest AES office

Brooks (362-5577)

Calgary (250-7977)

Camrose (672-3121)

Drumheller (823-6064)

Edmonton (473-4021)

Grande Prairie (539-4268)

Lethbridge (327-1822)

Red Deer (347-7877)

Vegreville (632-3391)

Wetaskiwin (352-6205)

Canadian Dairy Commission

Dairy Product Export Assistance Program

Program Description

This program provides financial assistance to Canadian exporters and processors of dairy products and products containing dairy ingredients. The Dairy Product Export Assistance Program also provides assistance to processors for skim milk powder used in Canada in animal feed production.

The program encourages exporters and processors to develop dairy products and to sell them directly to foreign clients. In this manner, dairy products surplus to domestic requirements are exported directly thereby eliminating interest, storage and transportation costs which the Commission would incur if it purchased equivalent volumes of products and exported them.

Contact

For more information on the Dairy Product Export Assistance Program, contact the:
Alberta Dairy Control Board
5201 - 50 Avenue
Wetaskiwin, Alberta
T9A 0S7
Phone: 352-1231

Dairy Support Program

Program Description

The Dairy Commission's support prices for butter and skim milk powder effectively establish floor prices which influence prices for all dairy products in Canada. Provincial marketing boards and agencies set a range of prices which processors pay for various uses of industrial milk using the federal target prices as a guide.

In addition to playing a major role in the stabilization of dairy product prices, the Commission's Offer-to-Purchase Program facilitates the year-

round provision of plentiful supplies of fresh dairy products for consumers.

The federal government pays for part of the cost of producing industrial milk and cream through a direct payment to producers at a uniform rate on qualifying milk shipments and on a limited amount of production for export markets.

The Government of Canada provides a direct payment of \$6.03 per hectolitre of industrial milk produced for domestic requirements.

Contact

Alberta Dairy Control Board
5201 - 50 Avenue
Wetaskiwin, Alberta
T9A 0S7
Phone: 352-1231

Offer-To-Purchase Program

Program Description

Under the Offer-to-Purchase Program, the federal government pays for the carrying charges related to the transportation, warehousing and financing of skim milk powder purchased by the Canadian Dairy Commission up to the level of domestic requirements.

Producers are responsible, through levies collected by provincial marketing boards and agencies, for the financing of carrying charges associated with purchases of products for the export program, and for butter and skim milk powder manufactured from milk produced above domestic requirements.

Producer Levies

Milk producers are responsible for all costs, including carrying charges, of exporting dairy products made from milk produced in excess of domestic requirements. Funding is ensured through levies collected from producers by provincial milk marketing agencies and remitted to the Canadian Dairy Commission to cover the costs it

incurs in the implementation of its international marketing program and of other programs approved by the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee (CMSMC).

Contact

Alberta Dairy Control Board
5201 - 50 Avenue
Wetaskiwin, Alberta
T9A 0S7
Phone: 352-1231

Canadian Wheat Board

Prairie Grain Advance Payments Program

Program Description

The Prairie Grain Advance Payments Program is designed to encourage western grain producers to store wheat and barley immediately after harvest, and then market their grain through the Canadian Wheat Board when delivery quotas are available.

Eligibility

Prairie grain producers.

Assistance

The Board may make an advance payment to a producer in respect of a crop year for deliverable grain (wheat and barley) prior to delivery to the Board.

The total amount that may be paid as advance payments shall not exceed \$250,000 per permit book in conjunction with any advance payments issued under the Advance Payments for Crops Act.

Advances and interest are repaid through deductions from sales receipts for subsequent deliveries of grain.

Contact

Your local elevator manager

Energy Mines and Resources Canada

Industry Energy Research and Development Program (IERD)

Program Description

This program aims at promoting the development of new and improved processes, systems, products and equipment that will increase the efficiency of energy use in industry.

Eligibility

Companies, trade and research firms, organizations and consulting firms established in Canada.

Assistance

The IERD program contributes up to 50 per cent of the eligible costs of approved projects.

Contact

Industry Energy Research and Development Program
Energy, Mines and Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 7th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E4
Phone: (613)996-2480

Natural Gas Vehicle Program

Program Description

The purpose of this program is to encourage the use of alternative fuels. Financial assistance is available from the government of Canada, with the assistance of the government of Alberta and the natural gas producers of Alberta, to purchase a new vehicle with a natural gas system or to convert a vehicle to run on natural gas.

Eligibility

All corporations, individuals and organizations resident in Canada may apply except for federal

government departments, agencies and some crown corporations.

All vehicles are eligible except

- off-road vehicles
- vehicles used 50 per cent or more outside Canada
- vehicles for which a previous federal contribution for natural gas or for propane conversion has been made.

Assistance

The payment covers 100 per cent of eligible costs for materials to a maximum of \$500. The purchase of a natural gas fuelled vehicle or the conversion to natural gas must be carried out before March 31, 1994. Costs can include fuel tanks, regulators, shut-off valves, carburetors and applicable hoses and clamps, and related installation costs. Equipment must be purchased in Canada and all components must comply with Canadian standards.

Applications must be filed within one year of the conversion to natural gas.

Contact

Your local natural gas utility
or
Energy, Mines and Resources Canada
Programs Office
9700 Jasper Avenue
Room 610, Canada Place
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C3

Environment Canada

Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (ACCA) – Pollution Control

Program Description

To encourage the installation of machinery and equipment that will control air and water pollution.

Eligibility

Any Canadian proprietor or firm operating a business for profit, and filing an income tax return.

On farms, the following items will normally be eligible:

- manure tanks
- pits (impermeable)
- pads (concrete, asphalt) constructed with an apron
- slatted floors
- hydraulic or compressed air pumps and associated piping
- agitation and pumping equipment
- liquid spreaders (if purchased concurrently with any of the above).

Assistance

Under this program, any eligible proprietor or firm may write off, for income tax purposes, the total cost of equipment or processes installed for the prime purpose of controlling air and water pollution. This write off is spread over a three year period (1st year - 25 per cent, 2nd year - 50 per cent, 3rd year - 25 per cent). The expenditures may cover the costs related to the prevention, reduction or elimination of pollution.

Contact

ACCA Program Manager
Conservation and Protection
Environment Canada
351 St. Joseph Boulevard
Place Vincent Massey, 18th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H3
Phone: (819)997-2057

Export Development Corporation

Short-Term Bulk Agriculture Credits Insurance Program

Program Description

To protect Canadian exporters of bulk agricultural commodities against non-payment of credits on sales to sovereign buyers (governments) and sales made on Irrevocable Letters of Credit (ILC).

To be insured, the exporter is required to provide the following type of information:

- the types of agricultural products being exported

- the markets to which the exporter expects to export during the next 12 months
- the credit terms being offered
- the Canadian content of the goods being exported
- basic financial and trade information of the exporter.

Any person or organization carrying on business in Canada is eligible for the program.

Contact

Export Development Corporation
Prairie and Northern Region
1030, 510 - 5 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3S2
Phone: 294-0928

Farm Credit Corporation

Long-Term Loans

Program Description

The Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) provides long-term mortgage credit to assist farmers and those wishing to become farmers to purchase, develop, and maintain sound farm businesses.

Eligibility

Individual farmers, beginning farmers, partnerships, farming corporations or farm cooperatives are eligible. Applicants must be of legal age with Canadian citizenship or permanent residency. Repayment ability and sound management skills must be demonstrated.

Assistance

FCC offers loans to farmers and to persons who plan to become full-time farmers within five years. FCC loans are available for purchasing farm land, farm equipment and breeding stock, building construction (including housing) or for any other purpose that will facilitate the efficient operation of the farm. Loans are also available to consolidate farm debts.

The loan limits are for one applicant \$350,000 and \$600,000 for two or more applicants. If there is an urgent need for funds, up to 30 per cent of the loan may be disbursed immediately upon loan approval.

FCC loans are secured by a mortgage on farm real estate alone or on farm real estate plus chattels. It can be a first or subsequent mortgage, as long as the security offered is adequate. Life insurance is available under a group policy on a voluntary basis.

Fixed interest rate terms are for 5, 10 and 15 or more years with amortization periods of up to 30 years. Loan payments may be annual, semi-annual or monthly. Loans with a five year interest term include a 10 per cent annual repayment privilege, which allows borrowers to reduce the principle by up to 10 per cent each year at no

charge. Shared risk mortgages may be partially or fully repaid on any anniversary date without charge. Prepayment on either loan products may be subject to an interest charge.

Interest rates on loans under the Farm Credit Act are adjusted periodically as market conditions and the cost of funds change. The current rates as of March 22, 1991 are:

Shared risk mortgage: 11 5/8 per cent

5 year term: 11 5/8 per cent

10 year term: 11 7/8 per cent

15+ year term: 12 per cent

Financial Counselling Service

FCC offers a free advisory service program to farmers who want to look at ways to improve the financial management organization or planning of their business.

FCC also offers the following types of loans:

Shared Risk Mortgages

The loans are available for farmers who want flexibility while minimizing the risks associated with floating interest rates. The interest rate is adjusted annually with the increases or decreases shared equally between FCC and the borrower. There is a ceiling of 2.5 per cent on any interest rate increases over the 6 year term of the mortgage.

Farm Syndicate Loans

The Farm Syndicates Credit Act provides for the extension of credit to farmers wishing to share equipment and buildings.

Eligibility

Farm Syndicate Loans are available to groups of three or more farmers, each of whom must:

- be of legal age
- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident
- offer adequate security
- possess sound management skills
- provide a viable plan of operations
- demonstrate repayment ability.

Cooperative farm associations and certain farming cooperations also qualify.

Assistance

The Farm Syndicates Credit Act provides the financial means for farmers to act cooperatively in overcoming the high cost of individual ownership of machinery, buildings and installed equipment that can be shared to mutual advantage.

A syndicate may borrow up to 80 per cent of the cost of farm machinery, buildings (including site and other improvements) and installed equipment to a maximum of \$15,000 per member or a total of \$100,000 whichever is the lesser.

The interest rate is currently 11 5/8 per cent.

How To Apply

An application for a loan should be made at your local FCC field office. FCC credit advisors will provide details if you wish to enquire about a loan.

Contact

Your local Farm Credit field office.

Federal Business Development Bank

In addition to the programs listed below, the FBDB offers:

- a Financial Planning Program
- Venture Capital Division
- newsletters and publications of interest to business.

Contact

call 1-800-661-3977 to locate the nearest FBDB office in Alberta

Business Management Courses

Program Description

The Federal Business Development Bank also draws on its vast experience with Canadian independent business to create 30 hour courses (suitable for presentation in an evening course format) to help business people manage better.

The courses are relevant, easy to deliver and follow, and current, and they are available through colleges and other educational institutions, as well as through Further Education Councils across the country. Topic areas include How to Start a Small Business, Bookkeeping, Effective Supervision, and many more important topic areas.

Contact

Educational institutions and/or councils can obtain more information on the courses, as well as order course materials by contacting
Lynne Fisher
Federal Business Development Bank
606 Metropolitan Place
10303 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3N6
Phone: 495-2277

Community Business Initiative Program

Program Description

The Community Business Initiative program is the Federal Business Development Bank's newest service, developed to provide business people with comprehensive, long-term training and counselling tailored to their specific needs.

The program runs for a period of 4 - 12 months and provides for 40 hours of group workshops and 40 hours of individualized counselling at the participants' place of business over the duration of the program.

This program is especially popular with business owners in smaller communities where quality business training and counselling are often not easily accessible.

Contact

To learn more about current programs or about customized training for your business or association, please contact:
your local Federal Business Development Bank office.

Counselling Assistance for Small Enterprise (CASE)

Program Description

CASE, a Division of the Federal Business Development Bank, is a business counselling service, delivered by a team of "hands-on", street smart, experienced business people.

CASE provides an extensive resource and network of business expertise for use by independent businesses throughout Canada. The program was launched in 1975 and assists approximately 10,000 business persons a year in Canada to launch or acquire businesses, identify opportunities and address specific business problems.

Counselling is done on a one-on-one basis, with the client at their place of business. Once the assignment has been completed a written report is presented outlining recommendations, schedules, action plans, strategies and responsibilities.

CASE Counsellors are seasoned business people who have chosen to share their knowledge and are committed to help businesses succeed. They understand the realities of the business environment and believe what is needed are practical implementable solutions, not elegant theories. CASE Counsellors provide an experienced set of eyes at a reasonable price. Whether someone owns their own business or is just thinking about getting started, CASE can make their journey as an independent business person a more profitable and enjoyable experience.

Contact

Your local Federal Business Development Bank.

Packaging and Intermediation

Program Description

Under this service, the Bank's Project Development Team will place FBDB's vast experience in developing proposals for financing at the disposal of you, the client. The Team will undertake an analysis of your existing or proposed business and, in conjunction with you and your advisors, will prepare a report to be used by financial institutions or government agencies to properly assess your application for funding.

Contact

Your local Federal Business Development Bank office

Strategic Planning

Program Description

Do you need help to develop and exploit your business potential more effectively? FBDB's Strategic Planning Service will help you see how your business stacks up against the competition and help you better understand and cope with:

- major environmental trends and their potential impact on your company
- market-related factors and their impact on profitability
- your position in the competitive marketplace and ways to improve it

- your marketing mix and its relationship to your customers' needs
- your internal resources such as manpower, money, materials and fixed assets
- your production, research & development, administration and management.

Contact

Your local Federal Business Development Bank office.

Term Loans

Program Description

FBDB offers term loans to finance many business proposals, including the purchase of an existing business. FBDB's term loans can also be used by customers to acquire fixed assets such as land, buildings, machinery and equipment. These loans can be offered at floating rates or at rates fixed for varying periods of time. Amortization can extend for longer periods depending on the nature of the financing, available security, repayment ability, etc. Floating interest rates can be switched to fixed rates at the borrower's request, for a nominal fee.

In some cases term loans can also be made to replenish or increase the working capital of a business when it has been depleted by recent capital expenditures. Working capital loans can also be granted to finance increasing sales.

FBDB attempts to structure the loan repayment terms according to the client's ability to repay. It offers a variety of methods, such as equal or graduated monthly payments of principal (straight line or stepped payments) or seasonal payments for businesses with revenues that vary greatly with the seasons.

Training

Program Description

As part of the management services department of the Federal Business Development Bank, the training division specializes in seminars and other training for small and medium-sized businesses.

Seminars from 3 to 6 hours are available to business owners and their employees in topics such as time management, creating customer loyalty, bookkeeping, developing a marketing plan, and hiring employees. Seminars on starting a business are also available.

The seminars are presented on an ongoing basis from September to June to the general public. The Bank also offers the workshops, at group rates, to private businesses, chambers of commerce, and other business associations.

All seminars are designed with the entrepreneur in mind. They are affordable and convenient to access in terms of scheduling and length, and

they give participants practical information they can put to use the very next day.

Contact

Your local Federal Business Development Bank office

Industry, Science and Technology Canada

Aboriginal Business Development Program

Program Description

The object of this program is to provide financial and developmental assistance to Aboriginal entrepreneurs and organizations starting up or expanding commercial ventures.

The Aboriginal Business Development Program can financially support the following projects:

- development of business plans and feasibility studies
- establishment, expansion, and modernization of commercially viable businesses and acquisition of ongoing businesses
- development of new products, services, or production process
- marketing initiatives such as the production of promotional literature or advertising, participation in trade shows, or market research
- business infrastructure
- developmental pilot projects to determine if a specific opportunity can be a viable business
- project follow-up costs such as accounting, marketing, and engineering services as required
- managerial, technical, and entrepreneurial training
- economic studies, seminars, or promotional activities related to the enhancement of Aboriginal entrepreneurship.

Eligibility

Business development support is available to Canadian status and non-status Indians, Metis and Inuit individuals, associations, partnerships, profit and non-profit groups, and other entities, which are majority-owned or controlled by Aboriginal people.

Assistance

The funding arrangements available through the program are flexible and will be tailored to each project.

Generally, 30 to 40 per cent of the financing for the following types of projects will be considered, with an allowable maximum of 60 per cent in certain cases;

- capital costs and infrastructure development costs associated with the establishment, expansion, acquisition or modernization of a commercial business;
 - or developing new products, new services, or innovative production techniques, which have the potential to be applied in commercial operations.

There is up to 60 per cent coverage of costs associated with marketing initiatives.

Seventy-five per cent of the costs for business plans, studies, business follow-up assistance and training are covered by the program.

The costs of developmental pilot project costs are covered up to 90 per cent.

The client must have access to a minimum amount of investment equity, equivalent to 10 per cent of the cost of the project to be developed.

It should also be noted that program funding may be partially or fully repayable.

To apply for funding under the Aboriginal Business Development Program write or contact the program office with a brief description of the proposed project.

Contact

Aboriginal Economic Programs
Industry, Science and Technology Canada
Suite 545, Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C3
Phone: 495-2954 FAX: 495-4172

Advanced Manufacturing Technology Application Program (AMTAP)

Purpose

To enhance the international competitiveness of Canadian Industry by stimulating the more effective use of advanced manufacturing technology.

Eligibility

AMTAP can provide funding for qualified firms to engage an outside consultant of their choice to assess the commercial and technical feasibility of a comprehensive upgrade of manufacturing operations.

AMTAP funds the following types of projects: review of current production operations with respect to long-term strategy, the definition of areas of improvement, the analysis of costs and benefits, and the preparation of an implementation plan.

Projects can involve either a single company or a group of companies.

The companies must be taxable and operating in Canada by engaging in manufacturing or secondary processing.

There must be a demonstrated commitment by the company's senior management to participate in and support the project.

Also taken into consideration are the following:

- the company's viability
- the extent to which the growth and international competitiveness of your company will be improved through better product quality, reduced inventory, shorter economic production runs or lower production costs
- the changes of implementing the project and exploiting the results
- the demonstrated capability of the consultant to carry out the project and experience in the technology to be studied.

AMTAP will not fund projects that involve the routine acquisition of new machines or manufacturing methods which are part of the normal budget, any project already contracted, or any project receiving funding from a third party.

Assistance

AMTAP provides contribution of up to 75 per cent of the cost of consultants to a maximum of

\$25,000 for projects involving only one company. In the case of joint application by a group of companies, the benefits of a joint application must be demonstrated. In this case, the assistance will be 75 per cent of the costs with a limit of \$20,000 per firm up to \$200,000 per application.

Eligible costs covered by this program include the daily fees for consultants along with reasonable travel expenses and outside secretarial services. Costs like training, benchmarking runs on equipment, and other costs of implementing the recommended solution for the company are not included.

Applications must be received by December 31, 1992.

Contact

Ernie Belsek
AMTAP Co-ordinator
Industry, Science and Technology
Suite 540
Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C3
Phone: 495-4782
FAX: 495-4507

Business Improvement Loans

Purpose

To provide financing for small business enterprises.

Eligibility

Business improvement loans can be made to a small business enterprise operation for gain or profit where the principal business carried on involves either communications, construction, fishing, manufacturing retail trade service businesses (including insurance agencies and real estate agencies), transportation, and wholesale trade.

For purposes of SBLA, a small business enterprise is one with an estimated gross revenue which does not exceed \$2 million during the fiscal year in which the business improvement loan application is made.

Business improvement loans cannot be made to primary agricultural production.

Assistance

Business improvement loans are made available for the purpose of financing:

- the purchase of land necessary for business operations
- the renovation, improvement, modernization, extension, construction and/or purchase of premises
- the purchase, installation, renovation, improvement and/or modernization of equipment of a kind not usually affixed to real or immovable property.

The maximum amount of business improvement loans a borrower may have outstanding in aggregate under the SBLA and the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act at any one time may not exceed \$100,000.

Subject to this maximum, business improvement loans can be used to finance up to 90 per cent of land and premises costs, and 80 per cent of equipment costs.

The maximum rate of interest approved lenders may charge on business improvement loans cannot exceed one per cent plus the prime lending rate. The interest rate fluctuates with the changes in the prime lending rate. The lender may charge the borrower one per cent of the business improvement loan since the lender is required to remit this amount to the government.

Maximum period for repayment is 10 years with principal instalments paid at least annually or more frequently.

All business loans must be secured by the lender taking security on the assets financed in a form consistent with normal lending practice.

If the lender's loss with respect to the business improvement loan is paid by the government, the borrower and guarantor(s) are liable for the payment of any outstanding obligations related to such loan.

All chartered banks under the Bank Act and Province of Alberta Treasury Branches are authorized to make business improvement loans under the provisions of the SBLA. After discussing their individual need, small business enterprises seeking assistance may apply at any of the approved lenders.

Legislation

Small Business Loan Act.

Contact

Small Business Loans Administration
Industry, Science and Technology Canada
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A5
Phone: (613) 954-5547

New Exporters to Border States (NEBS)

Program Description

This program is a short course for small and medium-sized businesses in the essentials of exporting to the United States. It provides practical information along with first-hand exposure to a nearby marketplace in the U.S. border state. Canadian companies that are not currently exporters will be encouraged to consider the markets just across the border as a natural extension of their home markets. The program is administered by Economic Development and Trade, and Alberta Agriculture for processed foods, in cooperation with the local International Trade Centre and is funded by External Affairs and International Trade Canada.

Contact

For more information on processed foods projects, contact Alberta Agriculture at 427-4241 or the International Trade Centre at 495-2944 in Edmonton or 292-6660 in Calgary.

New Exporters to U.S. South (NEXUS)

Program Description

This program is for companies that have traditionally exported to only one U.S. regional market, usually in the northern United States. Using a NEBS-style workshop format, NEXUS provides information and contacts to help businesses expand into other U.S. markets, particularly the southern states. NEXUS often features a visit to a local trade show or similar event. The program is funded and administered by External Affairs and International Trade Canada, in cooperation with Economic Development and Trade as well as Alberta Agriculture, and the local International Trade Centre.

Contact

For more information on processed foods projects, contact Alberta Agriculture at 427-4241 or the International Trade Centre at 495-2944 in Edmonton or 292-6660 in Calgary.

Program for Export Market Development (PEMD)

Program Description

This program assists export-ready businesses with trade promotion activities that they could not normally undertake on their own. Companies must be registered in WIN Exports. The program has two sections: industry initiated activities, and government planned activities.

The industry initiated portion funds up to 50 per cent of eligible expenses for participation in trade fairs and visits to identified markets outside Canada, for visits by foreign buyers and foreign sales agents to Canada, for project bidding or precontractual proposal preparation, for establishing permanent sales offices abroad, and for innovative marketing initiatives. Assistance must be requested in advance, and a portion must be repaid if the activity generates export sales.

Government planned activities cover specified costs for invited participants in selected trade missions and trade shows abroad, or for visits by foreign business persons and officials to Canada where there is substantial Canadian participation.

For more information contact the International Trade Centre at 495-2944 in Edmonton or 292-6660 in Calgary.

Contact

International Trade Centre
Harry Hays Building
Suite 603
220 - 4 Avenue SE
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3C3
Phone: 292-6660
International Trade Centre
Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4C3
Phone: 495-2944

Technology Inflow Program (TIP)

Program Description

The Technology Inflow Program helps Canadian businesses acquire foreign technology to develop new Canadian products, processes or services. The program is open to all companies, but is intended primarily for small and medium-sized firms. Through the program, External Affairs and International Trade Canada provides financial assistance such as exploratory or working visits abroad by individual Canadian companies, group technology missions abroad, and visits by foreign technical experts to companies in Canada.

The Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) administers the program in cooperation with EAITC. For more information, see the IRAP listing in your telephone yellow pages under "Technology Assistance".

Contact

Manager
Technology Inflow Program
Science and Technology Division
Department of External Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
Phone: (613) 996-0971

World Information Network for Exports (WIN Exports)

Program Description

WIN Exports is a computerized international sourcing system, listing Canadian firms and their products and services available for export, foreign markets and firms currently export to or are interested in, and contacts in the firms responsible for export activities. WIN Exports is a service of External Affairs and International Trade Canada; listed companies automatically receive CanadExport, a trade newsletter published by the department.

All entries are accessible only to External Affairs and International Trade Canada trade officials active in identifying export trade opportunities. Using WIN Exports, trade development officers can identify Canadian suppliers able to respond to sales opportunities in the officer's territory, make appropriate contacts on behalf of Canadian

companies, and report back with advice to help them make informed decisions.

Contact

For more information, contact the International Trade Centre at 495-2944 in Edmonton or 292-6660 in Calgary.

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) is a branch of Agriculture Canada working in the three Prairie provinces. It was established in 1935 as an emergency measure to provide for rehabilitation of drought and soil drifting areas in the Prairies through the promotion of systems of farm practice, tree culture, water supply and land utilization.

Today, as a permanent long-term measure, it provides technical and financial assistance to farmers, local governments and other federal and provincial agencies for soil conservation and water development projects. These projects continue to contribute to the economic well-being of the Prairies through the provision of a variety of programs.

PFRA field offices in Alberta:

PFRA
Suite 1620, Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3C4
Phone: 495-3307

PFRA
Development Services
Harry Hayes Building
P.O. Box 2906,
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 4X3
Phone: 292-5564

PFRA
Box 428
Hanna, Alberta
T0J 1P0
Phone: 854-4448

PFRA
203 Federal Building
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1J 0N8
Phone: 327-4340

PFRA
P.O. Box 7047
Peace River, Alberta
T8S 1S7
Phone: 624-3386

PFRA
P.O. Box 1079
Vegreville, Alberta
T0B 4L0
Phone: 632-2919

PFRA
P.O. Box 579
Westlock, Alberta
T0G 2L0
Phone: 349-3963

PFRA
214, 4711 - 51 Street
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 6H8
Phone: 346-9060

PFRA
210, 1865 Dunmore Road SE
Medicine Hat, Alberta
T1A 1Z8
Phone: 526-2429

Rural Water Development Program

Program Description

The Rural Water Development Program under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) provides technical and financial assistance for three types of projects:

- Individual On-Farm Projects
- Group Projects
- Community Projects

Individual On-Farm Projects

PFRA provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers throughout the Prairie provinces for the planning and construction of wells, dugouts, dams and irrigation projects.

Eligibility

The following criteria must be met by all applicants to be eligible for this component of the program:

- the program is available to bona fide farmers and ranchers
- application should be made and approval for the project obtained before development or construction. Failure to comply could result in prospective recipients being ineligible for a contribution
- applicants must construct projects to standards and specifications provided by PFRA and/or various provincial government agencies
- projects requiring authorization from a provincial water licensing body, or any other provincial agency, must be approved before financial assistance will be provided.

Assistance

Upon request, PFRA provides a variety of technical services to farmers to help develop reliable water supplies for domestic, livestock, and irrigation uses.

A maximum contribution of \$1,650 is provided for water source projects such as wells, dugouts, or dams. A maximum contribution of \$2,200 is available for irrigation projects. Financial assistance will not exceed one-third of the project costs.

NOTE: The Individual On-Farm Project will be in effect from April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992.

Group Projects

PFRA provides financial and technical assistance to groups of five or more bona fide farmers or ranchers, each of whom represents a separate farming unit, for developing water sources for domestic, stock watering or irrigation use.

Community Projects

PFRA will provide financial and technical assistance to legally incorporated rural communities such as towns or villages having a population of 300 or less, as determined by Statistics Canada. Assistance is provided for the development of municipal water supplies.

Eligibility

The following must be met by all applicants to be eligible for these components of the program:

- applications for group projects will be accepted from legally associated groups of farmers or ranchers or rural municipalities acting on their behalf. Indian bands can apply on behalf of the band or band farmers for group projects which serve an agricultural purpose.
- applications for community projects will be accepted from legally incorporated rural communities (population of 300 or less), and from rural municipalities applying on behalf of a village or hamlet, which is not a corporate body.
- applicants are required to enter into a legal agreement with Canada for the development of projects.
- projects requiring the authorization or approval of a provincial water rights agency, or any other provincial authority, must obtain such approval before assistance will be provided.

Assistance

(Applies to both Group and Community Projects)

Subject to available resources, PFRA will investigate water development alternatives for groups and communities. Assistance is available for the investigation, planning, survey, design and construction of water projects.

Subject to the availability of funds, PFRA will contribute up to 50 per cent of eligible costs for the development of water supplies for domestic, municipal, livestock and irrigation uses. Eligible projects include wells, dugouts, dams, pipelines, storage tanks, and tank loading facilities. Land costs, works related to treatment or distribution and engineering consulting fees are not eligible.

Contact

Your nearest PFRA field office.

Soil Conservation Program

Under the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASI), PFRA provides support for soil conservation activities in the province. CASI is a three-year initiative that terminates in June 1992. CASI programs administered by PFRA include the Permanent Cover Program, the Soil Conservation Equipment/Support Program, and Soil Conservation on Indian Reserves.

Permanent Cover Program

The purpose of the program is to retire sensitive marginal land from annual crop production by putting it under permanent cover such as forage or tree cover. Farmers may apply for assistance to seed perennial forages on eligible land. The land remains under the management and use of the farmer.

Under Option 1 of the program farmers receive \$20 per acre as a one-time payment for seeding perennial forages on eligible land. Farmers are encouraged to maintain the stand although they are under no legal obligation to do so. Renters may apply but must have written permission from the registered owner.

Under Option 2 landowners receive the \$20 per acre under Option 1 plus a one-time per acre bid payment to enter into a 10 or 21 year agreement to keep lands under permanent cover. Only registered landowners are eligible for this Option. A caveat will be registered which precludes the land from being covered by Crop Insurance for annual crops for the term of the agreement.

A third element of the program, available only to organized groups or organizations, provides financial assistance to purchase marginal land for retirement from annual crop production.

Participants in the Permanent Cover Program may be eligible for additional funding from wildlife management programs. If the participant wishes they will be referred to other agencies for further information.

Soil Conservation Equipment/Support Program

The purpose of this program is to make available specialized farm equipment for soil conservation practices carried out by Alberta farmers.

Funding will be provided to Agricultural Service Boards and producer organizations to purchase, lease or rent specialized conservation equipment. Eligible equipment items could include conservation tillage seeders and cultivators, grass seeders specialized herbicide applicators, and tree planters. Other items will be considered on their merits.

Financial assistance for manpower and other resources to support the program can be obtained from the province under the demonstration and local planning awareness program or from Canada if funding is not available from other sources.

Agricultural Service Boards and producer organizations can apply for assistance under the program by submitting an application to PFRA. The application must be accompanied by a three-year soil conservation action plan. If the plan and application are accepted, the service board or producer group will enter into a funding agreement with PFRA.

Soil Conservation on Indian Reserves

The purpose of this program is to promote and implement soil conservation on Indian Reserves in Alberta. Funding will be available to Indian bands and to Indian band organizations to undertake soil conservation projects. Individual farmers on reservations may access funding through the bands or band organizations.

Eligible activities under the program include soil conservation awareness, inventory, demonstrations, on-farm implementation, staffing, staff training, purchase or rental specialized equipment, and land reclamation. Eligible activities will be funded on a cost-share basis.

Bands and band organizations can apply for the program by submitting a proposal to PFRA. The proposal must include a statement of objectives, operational plans, and funding requirements and sources. If the proposal is accepted, PFRA will enter into a funding agreement with the band or organization for reimbursement of agreed expenditures.

Contact

For Alberta Agriculture Regions
Region 1 - Lethbridge Office
Region 2 - Hanna Office
Region 3 - Hanna Office
Region 4 - Vegreville Office
Region 5 - Vegreville Office
Region 6 - Peace River Office

Revenue Canada Taxation

Cash Method of Reporting Income

Program Description

Income from farming and fishing may be computed according to the cash method. Under this method, income includes all amounts received that represent business income (including collection of receivables from previous years) and a deduction is permitted for amounts paid that were deductible expense amounts (including payables incurred in previous years and not paid until the current year). A claim may also be made for a deduction of other costs, such as capital cost allowance.

This allows taxpayers added flexibility in the timing of reporting income and claiming deductions. For 1989 and subsequent years, however, there has been an amendment to the Income Tax Act that restricts a taxpayer's ability to create farm losses through the acquisition of purchased inventory. This restriction is termed mandatory inventory adjustment (MIA). This inventory adjustment will be required to either reduce or eliminate the farm loss to the extent that a farmer still has purchased inventory on hand.

Contact

For more information contact your nearest District Taxation office.

Election to Capitalize Cost of Borrowed Money

Program Description

Borrowing costs for depreciable property.

Instead of deducting such items as borrowing costs, e.g., interest, etc., the taxpayer may add them (or part) to the cost of depreciable property in respect of which the expenses were incurred. This is primarily advantageous when a business is in the start-up period and revenues are small

or non-existent. Instead of adding to losses which may expire (under the loss carry-forward rules) before sufficient profits have been generated, such costs may be effectively deferred and later claimed as capital cost allowance.

Depreciable property is property in respect of which the taxpayer is entitled to deduct capital cost allowance in the year, whether or not he/she actually claims such a deduction.

Contact

For more information, contact your nearest District Taxation office.

\$500,000 Capital Gains Exemption

Program Description

Taxpayers disposing of qualified farm property may be entitled to claim a capital gains deduction. This deduction offsets all or part of any taxable capital gain to a lifetime maximum of \$375,000 ($\frac{3}{4} \times \$500,000$).

Qualified farm property is property owned a husband or wife or a family farm partnership in which the husband or wife hold an interest and includes:

- a share of the capital stock of a family farm corporation owned by a husband or wife,
- an interest in a family farm partnership owned by a husband or wife, or
- real property (ie. immovable property such as land or buildings) or eligible capital property.

In order to qualify for the deduction real property must be used in carrying on a farming business in Canada. To meet this requirement, real property acquired before June 18, 1987 must be used in a farming business in Canada in the year the property is sold or for at least a five year period prior to the sale. Real property purchased at any time will meet this requirement if it is owned throughout the 24 months before the sale and was used by an individual for at least

two years in a farming business where the individual's gross farm income is greater than his/her income from all other sources in the years.

This exemption is very important to the farming community as many farmers have experienced a relatively large increase in their asset values. All farmers should acquaint themselves with the rules and regulations of this amendment in order to successfully incorporate the exemption into their farm business or estate plan.

Intergenerational transfers of qualified farm property, shares and partnership interests

Program Description

To encourage the children of farmers to operate the family farm before or after the parent's death, special rules are provided under which a family farm may be passed from one generation to the next without immediate tax liability for accrued gains in its value. Similar rules apply for the transfer of shares of family farm corporations or an interest in a family farm partnership.

Tax that would otherwise have been payable in respect to the disposition is deferred until the owner subsequently sells the property outside the family. This intergenerational family transfer is only available if the property was used in an active farm business immediately before the transfer by either the parent, spouse, child or corporation or partnership of any of the taxpayers listed.

Contact

Your nearest District Taxation office.

Investment Tax Credit (ITC)

Program Description

The investment tax credit allows you to deduct a percentage of the cost of property you purchase against the amount of taxes you owe. You may be entitled to this tax credit if you purchase qualified property in the year or you have unused investment tax credits from prior years.

Qualified property purchased after 1989 will be eligible for the ITC only if it is used in a farming business located in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Contact

For more information, contact your nearest Revenue Canada District Taxation office.

Calgary District Taxation Office

Harry Hays Building

220 - 4 Avenue SE

Calgary, Alberta

T2G 0L1

Phone: 292-4101

Southern Alberta

Toll Free: 1-800-332-1410

Edmonton District Taxation Office

Canada Place

9700 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta

T5J 4C8

Phone: 420-3510

Northern Alberta

Toll Free: 1-800-232-1966

Revenue Canada

Customs and Excise

Excise Gasoline Tax Refund Program

Program Description

A portion of the federal excise tax on gasoline equal to 1.5 cents per litre is refundable to eligible claimants who include farmers using gasoline for farming purposes. Apply by filing an Application for Refund of Excise Gasoline Tax, form XE-8.

For purposes of the excise gasoline tax refund program, the gasoline must be purchased for the sole use of an eligible claimant and not for resale. No refund is permitted on gasoline for personal use except for physically handicapped persons. Travel to and from work is considered personal travel and is not eligible for refund.

NOTE: Eligible claimants purchasing aviation gasoline must file an N15, Claim for Federal Sales and Excise Taxes, available from the local Excise office.

Time Limit

Claims must be filed within 2 years of the date of purchase.

Fuel Tax Rebate Program

Program Description

The Fuel Tax Rebate Program provides relief to eligible persons in the form of a fuel tax rebate on gasoline or diesel fuel.

Eligibility

Farmers, fishermen, loggers, miners, hunters and trappers who purchase gasoline or diesel fuel for commercial purposes, off-highway use, for sole use in qualifying operations, and not for resale.

Assistance

All eligible persons must apply by filing an Application for Rebate of Fuel Tax with the Department, form FT-3

The fuel tax rebate applies to gasoline type fuels for use in internal combustion engines other than aircraft engines, and to diesel fuel which includes any fuel oil that is used in compression-ignition type engines. There is no rebate on fuel oil that is intended for use and is actually used as heating oil.

The fuel tax rebate does not apply to gasoline or diesel fuel purchased for public highway use, non-commercial purposes, for resale, or for other than qualifying operations. The fuel tax rebate does not apply to gasoline or diesel fuel that is to be used under conditions for which the Excise Tax Act provides relief from the federal sales tax, such as diesel fuel for use in the generation of electricity.

Eligible persons must submit an application for rebate within two years of the date the gasoline or diesel fuel was purchased.

Sales Tax Bulk Purchase Permits (Direct Rebate)

All existing sales tax bulk permits were cancelled effective January 1, 1991. Claims for rebate of fuel tax must be made on form FT-3 as indicated above.

Contact

General inquiries should be directed to the following address. The identification number, telephone number, the application period, and the amount claimed should be included with all inquiries.

Revenue Canada
Excise Gasoline Tax
Refunds and Rebates
P.O. Box 345
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 8V3

Important

Both programs ended December 31, 1990 with the following exception: Registered Canadian Charitable Organizations, Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Organizations and handicapped persons can continue to claim the Federal Excise Gasoline Tax Refund.

All persons that are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) are able to claim the credit for the GST paid on business purchases, such as motor fuels used by farmers.

Federal Sales Tax Exemption

Program Description

Relief from sales tax is available for:

Most goods, other than motor fuels, purchased by farmers and fishermen to be used in their farming or fishing operations are exempt from federal sales tax.

However, if Federal Sales Tax FST was applied, a refund may be available.

To Apply

Refund claims are to be prepared on form N15 (Application for Refund/Deduction of Federal Sales and Excise Taxes) and supplement where required. Applications must be received within 2 years from date of purchase.

Excise memorandum ET 313 outlines the requirements to be met and the procedures to be followed in preparing and filing refund claims. The local Excise office provides forms and guidance in completing claims. There is no charge for this service.

Contact

Your nearest Regional Excise office.

Important

The Federal Sales Tax (FST) ended as of December 31, 1990 and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) came into effect on January 1, 1991.

Machinery Program

Program Description

To increase efficiency throughout Canadian industry by providing relief of customs duties on a variety of machinery and equipment that is not available from Canadian production.

Eligibility

The program is available to importers of eligible machinery and equipment.

A list of eligible machinery and equipment is established and available from the Machinery and Equipment Advisory Board. For unlisted items, an importer may make application to the Machinery and Equipment Advisory Board.

Contact

Customs and Excise Office
220, 510 - 12 Avenue
Calgary, Alberta
Phone: 292-8777

or
Machinery and Equipment Advisory Board
6th Floor, Connaught Building
McKenzie Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0L5
Phone: (613) 954-7100

Revenue Canada – GST

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Program Description

On January 1, 1991 the federal government implemented the GST, which is a seven per cent tax on the sale of most goods and services in Canada. The GST will replace the outdated federal sales tax which was in effect since 1924.

Farmers are "zero-rated" under the new GST. This means they do not charge any tax on the majority of their sales but still claim refunds for all GST paid on goods and services bought for their businesses.

Certain goods sold by farmers are taxable; cut flowers, trees, bedding plants, sod, living trees, soil and soil additives, seeds and natural fertilizer (except in bulk), wood, horses, wool (other than in an unprocessed state), fur and animal hides, and contract services (ploughing other farmers' fields, etc.).

Sharecropping is not subject to the GST but cash rent is.

Tax is charged on the sale of farmland if it is sold to a family member for their own personal use and enjoyment. If the land is sold as a part of a going concern there will not be a GST levy.

There is flexibility in the method of filing. Depending on the value of annual sales farmers may file on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

A one-time grant of up to \$1,000 is available for farmers whose annual revenue is between \$30,000 and \$2 million to help them adjust to the GST.

When a farmer sells a taxable product or service he/she is responsible for charging the GST. If the tax collected is greater than the tax paid on purchases during the same time period, a farmer remits the difference to the government. If the opposite should occur, where a farmer has paid more than is collected, a refund can be claimed. The government is committed to pay the refund in twenty-one days or they must include interest.

Contact for GST Registration

Farmers residing in Alberta and the Northwest Territories can register for GST by calling toll-free: 1-800-363-7129.

Where to Order GST Publications

Listed below are the mailing addresses and the local and toll-free telephone numbers for the Revenue Canada Excise offices to contact for GST publications. The publications you require should be ordered from these offices, not from Excise Headquarters in Ottawa.

Alberta and Northwest Territories
Box 1717
Station M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 4K4
Phone: 292-6990
Toll Free: 1-800-661-3498

P.O. Box 2296
Main Postal Station
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4N3
Phone: 448-1309
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0005

Western Diversification Program

Program Description

The objective of the program is to provide a counter force to the periodic cycles of the marketplace and to broaden and strengthen the economic base of the West through a diversification fund.

Eligibility

The most important factor determining whether a new project will receive assistance under the Western Diversification Program (WD) is the effect it will have on the diversification of the Western Canadian economy.

To qualify for assistance a project should either introduce a new product or service to Western Canada, take a new product or service into a new export market, introduce a new technology to Western Canada, improve productivity throughout an industry in the West, or help Western Canada replace imports from outside Canada with their own products.

Projects must show there is significant equity participation by the applicant so WD will share the risk on a "last in" basis with other funding sources, and prove WD assistance must be necessary for the funding to proceed. WD will normally assist only those costs incurred after the applicant has received a Letter of Offer outlining the WD financial support.

A project wanting Western Diversification funding should be in an industry not fully competitive, where WD assistance will not adversely affect another Canadian competitor.

The project being considered should not involve the refinancing of existing businesses. The assistance should not be used to help complete an existing contract.

There should be clear evidence of economic or employment benefits within the four western provinces should the project be financially assisted.

Assistance

The Western Diversification Program is different from other federal economic development programs because it is based and managed in the West, the guidelines for funding are flexible, and the application process is straightforward.

Under the WD, assistance comes in the form of contributions which have conditions on the disbursement of funds. The amount of funding, as well as the terms and conditions, vary.

The contributions are normally required to be paid back. The terms of repayment are flexible.

The application process is simple. If a project would like to be considered for funding, the party seeking funding should contact the closest Western Economic Diversification Office for details on the application process.

Contact

Western Economic Diversification Office
Suite 1500, Canada Place
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4H7
Phone: 495-4164
in Calgary phone: 292-5382

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